PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Vol. I. 1845. No. 1.

For many years the formation of a New Jersey Historical Society had been urged in the public prints in various parts of the State, and at different periods had engaged the attention of gentlemen feeling a warm interest in the subject.

No definite measures, however, were taken to combine and carry into action these views of individuals until January, 1845; when it was suggested by gentlemen of Monmouth County that advantage should be taken of the assembling at Trenton, in that month, of a Convention on the subject of Common Schools, to organize, at the same time, an Historical Society.

In consequence of this suggestion and a subsequent notice in the Newark Daily Advertiser, a meeting of a few gentlemen was held at Trenton, on the 13th of January, of which the Hon. Peter D. Vroom was appointed Chairman, and the Rev. Eli F. Cooley, Secretary: but a severe snow-storm having prevented the attendance of many who wished to be present, nothing was done except to appoint a Committee to prepare a draft of a Constitution and By-Laws, to be reported at a subsequent meeting to be held on the 27th of February.

On that day a number of gentlemen from different parts of the State assembled at the City Hall, in Trenton, and the Hon. P. D. Vroom, Chairman of the previous meeting, not being present, Stacy G. Potts, Esq., was chosen to preside, and Mr. Joseph P. Bradley was appointed Secretary.

The Rev. D. V. McLean, of Freehold, Chairman of the Committee appointed to prepare a Constitution and By-Laws, reported a Constitution, which was taken up by articles, and after discussion was, as altered and amended, adopted as "The Constitution of the New Jersey Historical Society." Mr. McLean also reported a code of By-Laws, the consideration of which was conceived to be the province of the Society when organized, and the report was consequently laid upon the table.

After the adoption of the Constitution, the gentlemen present paid their admission fees to the Secretary, and on motion, the Chair appointed Messrs. E. F. Cooley, N. Murray, William B. Kinney, Edward Harris and A. A. Marcellus a Committee to nominate officers for the Society.

The Committee having retired, the Rev. D. V. McLean read letters from several distinguished gentlemen of the State, expressing a lively interest in the subject and their best wishes for the promotion of the objects of the Convention.

The nominating Committee reported the following officers, who were unanimously elected:

President—JOSEPH C. HORNBLOWER.

Vice Presidents—1st. Robert G. Johnson, of Salem,
2d. Peter D. Vroom, of Mercer,
3d. James Parker, of Middlesex.

Treasurer—Thomas J. Stryker, of Trenton.

Librarian—Thomas Gordon, of Trenton.

Corresponding Secretary—William A. Whitehead, of Newark.

Recording Secretary—Joseph P. Bradley, of Newark.

Executive Committee—Daniel V. McLean, of Monmouth,
William B. Kinney, of Essex,
Nicholas Murray, "
Archer Gifford, "
Eli F. Cooley, of Mercer,
Richard S. Field, "
A. Bruyn Hasbrouck, of Somerset,
George W. Doane, of Burlington,
Elias B. D. Ogden, of Passaic.

The Society being thus organized, the Convention adjourned *sine die*.

After the adjournment of the Convention, which had thus given existence to the New Jersey Historical Society, a meeting of the members present was held, and in the absence of the President and Vice Presidents, the Rev. Nicholas Murray, D.D., was called to the Chair.

On motion of Hon. W. P. Robeson, of Warren,

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to draft By-Laws to be presented to the Society at its next meeting.

Messrs. D. V. McLean, W. A. Whitehead, W. B. Kinney, Archer Gifford, and Joseph P. Bradley were appointed the committee.

On motion,

Resolved, That when the Society adjourns, it adjourn to meet on the first Wednesday in May next, at 3 o'clock, P. M., in Newark; and that the officers of the Society residing in Newark make preparations for the meeting.

On motion of Rev. D. V. McLean, of Monmouth,

Resolved, That the Executive Committee prepare and cause to be published as early as practicable, in such form as they may think proper, an address to the public, setting forth the objects of the Society, and soliciting information from our fellow citizens on those subjects connected with its interests, and also donations of books, manuscripts, pamphlets, specimens in natural history, and whatever will tend to illustrate any department of the history of the State.

Resolved, That the Legislature of this State be respectfully requested to aid this Society by furnishing it with copies of all the laws and journals both State and colonial, as far as there may be duplicates in the possession of the State; and to give the Society access, by its Secretary or other agents, to the office of the Secretary of State and other public offices of the State, for the purpose of copying, without paying office fees, such documents or records as the Society may judge will promote the objects of its institution.

Resolved, That a committee of two be appointed to inform the Legislature of the organization of this Society and to present to that body a copy of the above resolution.

Hon. William P. Robeson and Stacy G. Potts, Esq. were appointed said committee.

On motion of Archer Gifford, Esq.,

Resolved, That the Corresponding Secretary communicate to all other Historical Societies in our country the fact of the organization of this Society; and solicit from them donations of any documents of interest it may be in their power to furnish.

On motion of WILLIAM B. KINNEY, Esq.,

Resolved, unanimously, That Mr. CHARLES KING be requested to deliver a discourse before the Society at its next meeting in May. Adjourned.

AMONG other letters read before the Convention by the Rev. D. V. McLEAN were the following:

FROM COL. ROBERT G. JOHNSON.

SALEM, *February* 15, 1845.

DEAR SIR,

On my return from Philadelphia I found your letter on my table informing me that at a meeting of a number of gentlemen at Trenton, you had been appointed their chairman to prepare a constitution and by-laws to be submitted to the meeting to be held on the 27th inst.

I assure you, my dear sir, that I do most heartily approbate the organizing of a Historical Society for our State, and it is much to be lamented that it had not been done years ago. I had more than twenty years past frequently suggested the propriety of appointing some competent person in each of the counties of the State who should collect all the scraps of the events of our State worth recording, from the grant of King Charles to the close of the Revolution. We had then many worthy and competent citizens living who could have brought together a large mass of historical facts, which through the lapse of time have been lost forever. Yet we are much indebted to the labors and researches of Judge Gordon and Barber and Howe, of New Haven, for their publications.

But I apprehend the object of the Society is to prevail (if possible) upon our Legislature to depute some competent person, with a salary sufficient to requite him for his time, and trouble, and labor expended, to go to England and solicit the favor of examining the records there of every thing having any reference to the acts and doings of the rulers, of King Charles and James and others under their authority. I hope the Legislature will approve of the wishes of your meeting and grant every facility necessary to accomplish so laudable and patriotic an undertaking. I shall feel myself honored in being a member of the New Jersey Historical Society.

Yours very respectfully,

ROBT. G. JOHNSON.

FROM REV. SAMUEL MILLER, D.D.

PRINCETON, *February* 18, 1845.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

It was with much pleasure that I received your letter of the 10th instant, informing me of the plan to form a New Jersey Historical Society, and of the appointment made by a number of gentlemen, in whose wisdom and patriotism I have great confidence, to meet in Trenton on the 27th instant, then and there, if practicable, to carry the plan into effect.

I have, for a long time, wished an association of this kind to be formed; and, indeed, several months ago, expressed to my respected neighbor and friend, Richard S. Field, Esquire, my decided opinion, and earnest desire that something of this kind should be attempted. I am greatly gratified to find that a number of my enlightened and public spirited fellow citizens have taken hold of the subject, and appear resolved to do something effectual. I sincerely hope that their attempt will be crowned with success, and that great good will result from the association which it is proposed to form.

I have often lamented, as a citizen of New Jersey, that the lives and doings of so many eminent men connected with our earlier, and even our later history, are so little known, and are likely soon, if not recorded, to pass into irrecoverable oblivion. The annals of New Jersey furnish a considerable list of men who flourished from fifty years to a century and a half ago; men of powerful, cultivated and active minds, of whom we ought to have more authentic memorials than we now possess. Names which ought still to live in the memories of all who respect talent and worth, have either sunk into forgetfulness, or are cherished only in the recollection of a few who have taken peculiar interest in the character and services of departed public servants.

It is time—high time—to awake to the importance of this subject, and, while we may, to gather up the fragments which remain, that as little as possible may be irrecoverably lost. I cannot doubt that there are several hundred families in this State, in which many important pamphlets and papers exist, of no real value to their possessors, which, if inquired after, would be cheerfully given to be deposited on the shelves of a society where they would be at once carefully preserved, and ultimately turned to some good account. Surely there are to be found somewhere among the descendants of the former Governors, Judges, and Legislators of New Jersey, for 150 years past, many curious and precious documents, which might

easily be brought to light, and placed in the possession of such a Society as I hope to see formed by the present generation of eminent men in our State. I think these eminent men owe this service to themselves, to their state, and to their common country.

If I were 25 years younger than I am, I would make a free offer of myself,—not only as one of your associates, but as one of your *reliable working men*, to tug at the oar of labor on your behalf. But being now far advanced in my 76th year, and having very many of the infirmities which usually attend that age gathering around me, I dare not promise anything but my good wishes, my fervent prayers for your success, and my disposition to cheer on those who are able and willing to work in your service. I fear it will not be in my power even to be present at the proposed meeting. I find so much inconvenience, and even danger in exposure to evening air, and to lodging out of my own house, that I am afraid of taking any liberties of this sort. But my heart will be with you: and if the smallest opportunity of serving your Institution should ever occur, it will give me cordial pleasure to avail myself of it. I will thank you to subscribe my name to the Constitution which may be formed, and to consider me as one of your enrolled members, and responsible for the pecuniary dues attached to membership.

I take for granted that the collected wisdom at your appointed meeting will need no suggestion from me in reference to any point connected with your proposed Constitution. Yet, such is my deep interest in the cause, that I cannot forbear to throw out some hints in regard to three particulars.

1. I hope you will provide a shelf in your depository, and a pretty ample one, for documents relating to *Ecclesiastical history*. You must not set this suggestion down to the score of *professional bias*—far less to any desire for connecting *Church and State*, which may God forever avert from every part of our land! But because, in the progress of a state, Ecclesiastical matters are often found to be closely connected with its improvement. Suppose the future historian of New Jersey should take a notion to construct his work on the plan of Doctor *Henry's* History of Great Britain, he would find such a department in your collection not only important but indispensable.

2. Try, by all means, to have in every county in the state, a devoted, enthusiastic, active friend of your cause, who will take a deep interest, and spare no pains in searching out, and collecting every fragment in his county which may be adapted to promote the design

of the Society. Search for men who are *never idle;* who *love labor;* and, above all, who love to labor for the *public good.*

3. Will it not be desirable to connect with your plan some attention to the *Natural History* of the State? Who would consider the history of South Carolina or Georgia as well written, which should say nothing about the introduction of *Rice* and *Cotton* into those States respectively; or that of Pennsylvania, which should take no notice of her inexhaustible stores of *Coal* and *Iron?*

One word more. I have observed, in regard to all the literary and scientific societies with which I have ever been connected, that, however numerous the members, some dozen or two of them performed almost all the work. It will be so in this instance. I mention the fact for the purpose of suggesting to those who will be members of the New Jersey Historical Society, that those of them who love the cause which it is intended to subserve, and who are resolved zealously to bear it forward, must not rely upon others, or expect much from others; but be ever on the watch to do all they can themselves, as if *they* were the only members. May a blessing rest upon this enterprise! Sincerely and cordially,

Your friend and brother,

SAMUEL MILLER.

FROM HON. JAMES PARKER.

PERTH AMBOY, 18 *Feb.* 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have duly received your letter of the 10th inst. requesting my attendance at Trenton on the 27th inst. at the intended formation of an Historical Society for this State. I do not know that it will be in my power to attend, but you have my hearty good wishes in favor of the object which it is to promote, and any thing in my power will be gladly done to assist in its accomplishment.

The History of New Jersey is unknown even to her own sons; yet she has much to be proud of, and nothing that I know of to make us blush for her, in the oldest times or in those revolutionary struggles in which her people bore so conspicuous and honorable a part.

It is an honorable pride which would lead us to put upon record the scattered and forgotten evidences of our History, which would prove us worthy of a high place in the estimation of the world.

With my best wishes for the success of the undertaking,

I am, my dear sir, yours very truly,

JAMES PARKER.

FROM THE REV. A. ALEXANDER, D.D.

PRINCETON, *Feb.* 24, 1845.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,

In answer to your kind letter, I would say, that it would afford me real pleasure to attend the meeting of the "New Jersey Historical Society," on the 27th inst. but at this season, I dare not venture abroad. I wish, however, to express my warm approbation of the institution. It would have been well if such a society had been formed a century ago. Much valuable information respecting local facts has, undoubtedly, been irrecoverably lost, by the death of the persons who were in possession of the facts, and by the heedless destruction of papers and pamphlets, which might have cast light on many points, which now remain in obscurity. In endeavoring to ascertain things relative to the early history of the Presbyterian church in this State, I have met with much disappointment in obtaining authentic evidence of facts, which, a century since, were known to every one in the neighborhood where they occurred; but concerning which there is now no more than vague tradition. This leads me to remark, that I hope the Society will not confine themselves to the civil history of New Jersey, but will comprehend in their plan the ecclesiastical history of all the religious denominations in the State.

Though unable to attend, I should feel myself honored by having my name enrolled as a member, if consistent with your rules.

I am very respectfully, Yours, &c.

A. ALEXANDER.

NEWARK, *May* 7, 1845.

THE Society met according to adjournment, the HON. JAMES PARKER occupying the chair in the absence of the President.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. MURRAY, it was

Resolved, That those gentlemen, who at, or prior to, the present meeting have indicated their desire to advance the objects of the Society by presenting their names to the officers, as applicants for membership, be considered as original members of the Society.

The Committee appointed at the previous meeting to draft By-Laws, presented a set of rules, which after consideration and amendment were approved and adopted.

The Executive Committee by their Chairman reported, that they had prepared and published in several newspapers according to instructions, a circular, addressed to the people of this State, setting forth the objects of the Society.

Mr. J. P. BRADLEY in behalf of the Committee appointed to inform the Legislature of the State of the formation of this Society, and to request donations pertinent to its object, and the privilege of copying the public records free of office fees, stated, that the said Committee had performed the duty assigned to them, and that the Legislature in answer to their application had passed a joint resolution fully complying with the desires of the Society.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Constitution, By-Laws and Circular of the Executive Committee be printed in a pamphlet form.*

The Corresponding Secretary, reported that, in accordance with a resolution of the Society, he had made known its organization to all the Historical Societies in the United States, and from several, had received gratifying communications in return. He presented and read letters to and from the Societies of New York, Maryland and Connecticut, and from the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, Mass., from the Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN, from Professor A. D. BACHE, Dr. JOHN PROUDFIT and other individuals.

A communication from the Historical Society of New York, relating to the adoption of a new national appellation for the United States, with a report on the subject by a Committee of that Society, having been read, was on motion referred to a Committee consisting of Messrs. Murray, C. King and Bradley.

A letter having been read from Mr. S. ALOFSEN of Jersey City, offering to the Society his gratuitous services in translating any Dutch documents that may come into its possession, it was, on motion of Mr. C. PARKER,

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be communicated to Mr. S. Alofsen for the offer made of his gratuitous services as translator.

Col. ROBERT G. JOHNSON of Salem, on presenting to the Society a number of valuable documents, made some highly interesting statements in relation to JOHN FENWICK, the early proprietor of Salem and Cumberland. One of the papers presented being a military commission from President BRADSHAW constituting Fenwick a Captain of horse, Col. J. remarked, that he had formerly been in possession of an order, in OLIVER CROMWELL'S own hand writing, to Fenwick as Major of Cavalry, directing him to superintend the execution of

* A pamphlet containing the Constitution, By-Laws and Circular of the Society having been already transmitted to each member, the republication of those documents is considered unnecessary. Those subscribers who are not members will be supplied with copies, on application, post paid, to the Corresponding Secretary.

Charles 1st, but for the want of some proper depository, like the Historical Society, it had been lost.

Fenwick was generally thought to have been a Quaker, but whatever he may have professed when among Quakers, he was certainly once a member of an Independant Congregation in England, as appeared by a Certificate of membership, signed by the Pastor, (among the documents presented) and as evinced by his holding military offices.

On motion,

The thanks of the Society were presented to Col. Johnson for the interesting documents presented by him.

The Rev. Mr. Cooley having referred, in some remarks, to valuable and interesting documents which he supposed, from information imparted to him, might probably be found in the possession of the Rutherfurd family residing in East Jersey, Dr. J. S. Condit confirmed the truth of his conjecture,—the papers forming a part of the ample library of the Misses Rutherfurd, of Harrison, Hudson Co., and made some interesting statements in relation to their character and value.

Hon. Wm. A. Duer stated, that he had in his possession valuable original papers which once belonged to Lord Stirling, and of which he would furnish copies to the Society, but his engagements did not allow the leisure, whereupon Mr. James G. King offered to bear the expense of making copies.

Mr. Charles King stated to the Society, that in the preparation of his address for the evening, he had been kindly furnished by the Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Whitehead, with the loan of a manuscript history of East Jersey under the Proprietary Governments, and as he considered it a suitable work for the Society to publish as its first fruit offering to the historical literature of the country, he would propose, if Mr. Whitehead's assent could be obtained, (for he made the suggestion on his own responsibility, Mr. W's expostulations to the contrary) that a Committee be appointed to superintend its publication.

Judge Duer remarked that it would be proper to have a Standing Committee on Publications to supervise and publish all manuscripts referred to them which the Society might deem it expedient to print:

Whereupon, on motion of Judge Duer,

Resolved, That a Standing Committee of five members be appointed on the publication of the transactions and other matters proposed to be published by this Society, and that all such matters be referred

to the said Committee, whose duty it shall be to cause such papers or documents as they may approve to be published.

The Chairman appointed Messrs. Duer, Cooley, Murray, C. King and J. S. Condit members of the said Committee.

Mr. C. KING then renewed his motion, which was adopted as follows :

Resolved, That the Committee on publications apply to Mr. W. A. Whitehead for the manuscript of the history prepared by him of East Jersey under the Proprietary Governments, with the Appendix, comprising "The Model of the Government of East New Jersey," by George Scot, of Pillochie ; and that they cause the same to be published under the sanction of the Society.

Nominations were then made of various gentlemen as resident, corresponding and honorary members, which were referred to the Standing Committee on nominations, now appointed by the Chair in accordance with the by-laws, consisting of Dr. Murray, Professor John Maclean and W. A. Whitehead.

The Society adjourned to meet immediately after the delivery of Mr. King's address.

9 o'clock, P. M.

The Society being called to order by the Chairman, on motion of Bishop DOANE it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be given to Mr. King for his discourse, and that a copy be requested for publication.

The Society then adjourned to meet at Princeton on the first Thursday of September.

SELECTIONS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE

Read before the Society, May 7, 1845.

TO JOHN JAY, ESQ., CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, &C.

NEWARK, N. J. *March* 1, 1845.

SIR,

I have been charged with the agreeable duty of announcing through you to the New York Historical Society the organization of a kindred institution in the State of New Jersey.

Intimately connected as were the two States in their infancy, under the domination of both the Dutch and English, it may be confidently expected that the researches of our respective societies will

prove mutually beneficial. We duly appreciate the advantage we possess in entering the field aided by the labors of your Society, which have already so greatly relieved from the darkness and obscurity which rested upon them, the periods when the interests of New York and New Jersey were so closely interwoven; and we shall endeavor to show our gratitude by strenuous exertions still more to enlighten the dark passages in the early annals of the two States.

It would be a great favor to our young association could your Society bestow upon it copies of its transactions and publications, or any duplicate documents, books, or pamphlets, bearing upon the history of our country, which may be spared from its collection—a favor which will gladly be reciprocated when in our power.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. A. WHITEHEAD,

Corresponding Secretary.

To JOHN JAY, Esq., Dom. Cor. Sec., &c., New York.

FROM JOHN JAY, Esq., CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, &c.

HISTORICAL ROOMS, City of New York,
March 28, 1845.

DEAR SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 1st inst., announcing to the New York Historical Society the organization of a kindred institution in the State of New Jersey, and I confidently join in your expectation, that the researches of our two societies will prove mutually beneficial in illustrating the several periods when the interests of New York and New Jersey were so closely united.

Your letter was communicated to the New York Historical Society at its last stated meeting, held on the 5th instant, and the following resolutions were thereupon unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That this society have learned with sincere pleasure the formation of the New Jersey State Historical Society, and tender to that institution their cordial congratulations and friendly services.

Resolved, That the Librarian be directed to forward to the New Jersey State Historical Society, copies of all the collections and proceedings of this society, and also any duplicate documents, books or pamphlets, bearing upon the history of the country, which may be spared from its collections.

Our Librarian is now engaged in making a catalogue of the library, and until its completion it will be difficult for him fully to

comply with the above directions of the society, touching the selection of duplicates ; but I understand that a package will be forwarded to you in a few days, containing a copy of our volumes, and such duplicates as the present imperfect catalogue may enable him to supply.

Among the documents recently procured in Europe by Mr. Brodhead, the historical agent of the State of New York, relative to our colonial history, are a few incidentally relating to New Jersey during the administration of Sir Edmund Andros and Gov. Dongan. Two letters by Governor Hamilton of New Jersey to Governor Fletcher, a long letter from Lord Cornbury, dated July 15th, 1705, giving an account of the Provinces of New York and New Jersey, since his arrival, with a resume of their previous history, and other documents extending at intervals, from 1680 to 1748, of which I will send you a particular memorandum, from the complete and accurate index attached to the report of Mr. Brodhead, of the results of his mission. The documents directly belonging to the colonial history of New Jersey, contained in "Her Majesty's State Paper Office in London, and the Records of the Board of Trade," are doubtless voluminous and important ; and the expediency of procuring transcripts for your archives, will, I hope, soon engage the attention of your society and your legislature. The Jersey papers in the State Paper Office, were included in a distinct department from those of New York, and were not submitted to Mr. Brodhead's inspection.

Among the MSS. of the New York Historical Society, bearing upon the history of New Jersey, are the papers of Wm. Alexander, Lord Stirling, extending from 1756 to 1783 ; the original minutes of the commissioners of the boundary line between New York and New Jersey in 1763, with two reports of a committee of her Majesty's Council of New York upon the same subject, and a "Brief of the claim on the part of the Province of New Jersey, and of the proofs offered in support of it, before the commissioners appointed by his Majesty for settling the boundary line between the Provinces of New York and New Jersey, from the station on the Hudson River to the station on the Delaware River, with observations upon, and answer to the several objections made by the agents on the part of New York." This document embraces 123 folio pages. It contains very full, minute and accurate memoranda of governmental, official and proprietary acts illustrative of the title to the lands in question, from their possession by the States of Holland in 1663. It bears date "New York, Sept. 28th, 1769," and is signed in autograph by "Jno. Stevens, James Parker and Walter Rutherfurd."

There are also some other documents relating to the boundaries, of a later date and less importance, and a number of maps used by the original commissioners, which with the minutes remained in the possession of the late John Jay, who was employed as their clerk, and which the members of your society may have occasion to consult, or have copied for your own collections.

Praying you to command my services if I can at any time be useful to your society,

I remain, dear sir, very respectfully, your faithful servant,

JOHN JAY, *Dom. Cor. Sec., etc.*

To Wm. A. Whitehead, Esq., Cor. Sec. of N. J. Hist. Soc.

FROM JOHN JAY, Esq., Corresponding Secretary, &c.

Historical Rooms, City of New York,
April the Tenth, 1845.

Sir,

In accordance with a resolution passed at the last meeting of the New York Historical Society, held on the first instant, I have the honor to address to you a copy of the Report of a committee appointed at a previous meeting, to consider the expediency of the adoption by this country of a National Name.

The Report has not yet been adopted, or acted upon by the Society; but has been made the special order for the next stated meeting, to be held on the 6th of May; and in the meanwhile it is submitted to the Historical and Antiquarian Societies of other states, and to eminent gentlemen throughout the country for their advice.

The disadvantages attendant upon the want of a distinctive national appellation are very generally admitted, but doubts are entertained by many of the practicability of the proposed change. It has been suggested that some of the difficulties belonging to the subject, such as a wide variance of opinion in regard to the title, and the mistakes to which a new and local name would necessarily give rise in foreign countries, may be in a great measure obviated by proposing to call our land "The Republic of Washington." A name which it is thought might be adopted by acclamation, and which if adopted, would be instantly recognized and identified in distant lands, and command the approval of the whole world.

The views of the New Jersey Historical Society upon the subject are respectfully requested.

I have the honor to be, dear sir, your faithful servant,

JOHN JAY, *Dom. Cor. Sec., etc.*

To Wm. A. Whitehead, Esq., Cor. Sec. of N. J. Hist. Soc.

TO JOHN JAY, Esq., Corresponding Secretary, &c.

Newark, N. J., April 19, 1845.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 28th March, and in behalf of the New Jersey Historical Society, would respectfully tender its thanks for the interest so promptly taken in its success by its sister institution of New York. I have also received your letter of 10th April, relating to the proposed adoption of a new appellation for our country, and a copy of the Transactions of your society for 1844. These will be laid before our society at its meeting in May.

Having had an opportunity, through the courtesy of Mr. Brodhead, of examining a portion of the Colonial Documents with which his agency has enriched New York, I had already become aware, previous to the receipt of your letter, that New Jersey was under obligations to him for having judiciously secured many papers of peculiar importance to her history, as well as others, in which she was interested jointly with New York. In consequence of this examination, an exertion was made to obtain from the Legislature of the State, at its late session, an appropriation which would have authorized an application to the authorities of New York, for permission to obtain transcripts of such papers; but after the favorable action of one house, the resolution was postponed in the other to the next legislature; along with a kindred measure which contemplated the procurement of an analytical index to the Colonial Documents in the English archives, referring to New Jersey. It is hoped that next year both these desirable projects may be perfected.

As an illustration of the value which is oftentimes inherent in a simple historical fact, *apparently* of trivial import, I would state that *a single line* in one of Governor Andros's despatches, procured by Mr. Brodhead, has relieved some events in the history of New Jersey from much doubt and conjecture.

He writes from New York under date of October 4th, 1668. "I arrived here the 11th of August past, when his Majesty's Letters Patent being published, received this place, as also East New Jersey the 15th, and West New Jersey 18th, following, where by proclamation *continued the revenue and all offices in place until further order.*"

It was well known that Andros took New Jersey under his charge, as well as New York, in accordance with the directions of his royal master, but how his authority had been established in the province without some disturbance or confusion, had never been shown; neither

had it been explained how that authority should have been subsequently superseded, without the same commotion that attended its overthrow in the other colonies which had been subject to his rule; but the sentence I have quoted removes the difficulties which encompassed these enquiries. The officers of the Proprietaries having been continued in power on acknowledging his supremacy, there was little room for objection or opposition to his assumption of the government, and when his authority was at an end, there was no ground for revolution, as that event reinstated matters as they were before. Governor Hamilton, however, hesitated as to the most expedient course, and sailed for England to consult the proprietaries, leaving the population to the care of their local magistrates, and *not* as has too frequently been asserted, without any government whatever.

This proceeding of Governor Andros was one of the very few instances in which he exhibited any prudence or moderation in his administration of the affairs of the provinces. The course pursued by him being certainly the most politic for his own success, and as it turned out, most fortunate for New Jersey.

I cannot close this communication without thanking you for your politeness in furnishing the information your letter contained, respecting the MSS. in your library in which we are interested, as well as the list of colonial documents in the New York Collection, which from Mr. Brodhead's Calendars, appear to refer to New Jersey.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. A. WHITEHEAD,

Cor. Sec. N. J. Hist. Soc.

To JOHN JAY, Esq., Cor. Sec. of the N. Y. Hist. Society.

FROM REV. DR. PROUDFIT.

RUTGERS COLLEGE, *May* 7, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

I deeply regret that my engagements at College today compel me to forego the pleasure of being present at the meeting of the New Jersey Historical Society—the more so, as I was obliged for the same reason to come away from Trenton without being present at its first meeting, though I went there for the purpose. I desire, however, to be enrolled among its members, and to express my hearty interest and sympathy in its objects. The Past, rich as it is in instruction, in delight, and in all elevating influences, is swiftly receding from us—and we surely do well in securing such of its

precious fragments as are still floating within our reach on the stream of time, beneath the surface of which they will soon sink and disappear forever. Whether we view it as a record of Divine Providence, or as a history of the *early life* of our country and the first working of its institutions, or as exhibiting the results of experiments in all the manifold departments of human life, its remains are equally valuable—and unless speedily secured and placed in some permanent form, equally perishable. * * * * * *

Few Societies of the kind have had before them so ample a field or so rich and varied materials, as the New Jersey Historical Society. And if a warm and general interest in its inquiries can be awakened in all classes of the community, it will, I am persuaded, prove a very useful institution.

I am, very respectfully, yours &c.,

J. PROUDFIT.

To the Corresponding Secretary N. J. Hist. Soc.

DONATIONS

ANNOUNCED MAY 7TH, 1845.

Constitution, By-Laws, &c., of Maryland Historical Society.

First Discourse before the Maryland Hist. Soc., June 20th, 1844, by Charles F. Mayer, A. M. *From the Society.*

Proceedings of the New York Historical Society for the year 1844. *From the Society.*

Essay on Meteorological Observations, by J. N. Nicollet, Esq., printed by order of the War Department. *From Major James D. Graham, U. S. Top. Engineers.*

Report to the Navy Department on American Coals, by Walter R. Johnson. *From Hon. Wm. L. Dayton.*

First and Fourth Annual Reports of the Commissioners of Common Schools in the State of Connecticut, 1839–1842.

School Architecture, by Henry Barnard.

Connecticut Common School Journals, 1838–1842, 4 vols. in 2.

Reports and other Official Documents respecting the Common Schools of Connecticut, from 1838 to 1842, by Henry Barnard, Secretary of the Board of Commissioners. *From Mr. Barnard.*

Report on the Geology of the State of Connecticut, by James G. Percival. *From Charles Hosmer Esq. of Hartford.*

Report of the Commissioner of Patents, January, 1845. *From Hon. Jacob W. Miller.*

Report on the Aboriginal Names and Geographical Terminology of the State of New York to the New York Hist. Soc., by Henry R. Schoolcraft. *From the Author.*

Historical Sketches of the late War between U. S. and Great Britain, by John Lewis Thomson. *From Cortland Parker, Esq.*

The Worcester Magazine and Historical Journal, by Wm. Lincoln and C. C. Baldwin, 1825–6, 2 vols.

Transactions and Collections of the American Antiquarian Society, 2 vols.

Catalogue of the Library of the American Antiquarian Society. *From the Society.*

Final Report of the Historical Agent of the State of New York, with Calendars to all the Colonial Documents procured by the State and now at Albany. *From Thos. D. James, Esq., Albany.*

Collections of the New York Historical Society, Vol. I. *From Mr. E. Stewart.*

Travels in New England and New York, by Timothy Dwight, S. T. D., LL. D., &c., 4 vols.

The New American Magazine, for odd months, 1759–60, with an original sketch annexed of the Editor and Printer, from the Newark Daily Advertiser of Sept. 10th, 1839. (The first periodical published in New Jersey.)

Four Fourth of July Orations, delivered at Newark and Elizabethtown, 1794, 1797 and 1798, by Isaac Watts Crane, Alex. C. MacWhorter and David B. Ogden.

A Historical Account of St. John's Church at Georgetown, D. C.

An Address at the funeral of Hon. Abel P. Upshur and others killed on board the Princeton, and a

Farewell Sermon, by Rev. C. M. Butler.

Engraved Portrait of Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen, by Sartain. *From Wm. A. Whitehead.*

Map of New York Bay and Harbor and the Environs, founded on a survey under the direction of F. R. Hassler, Supt. of U. S. Coast Survey. *From the United States.*

The following are the papers, &c., presented in person by Col. Robert G. Johnson, of Salem.

"An exemplification at the request of John Fenwick, Esq.," of the grant from Charles II. to James, Duke of York, of New Jersey, beautifully engrossed on parchment.

Exemplified extract from West Jersey Records, giving the date of the arrival of John Fenwick and family, giving their names, &c.

Certificate of John Fenwick's membership of the church "whereof Mr. John Goodwin is Pastor," Feb. 4, 1649.

Commission from "Jo : Bradshawe, Pres't," to John Fenwick to be "Captain of a Troop of Horse," with the seal of the Council of State, Sept. 4, 1651.

Three original letters to John Fenwick from his wife Mary, bearing date Aug. 27, 1678, Aug. 31, 1678, and Feb. 7, 1679, London.

John Fenwick's Will, August 7, 1683.

The Counterpart (signed by Warner and Eldridge) of release from John Fenwick, July 19, 1675.

The Counterpart (signed by Penn) of release from John Fenwick to William Penn of all his interest in West Jersey excepting 150,000 acres, dated March 23, 1682.

Three deeds from the Indians to John Fenwick, for lands in West Jersey.

Copy of a deed from the Indians to John Fenwick.

Agreement of Indians with J. Fenwick upon what terms to release all claims against him, Nov. 8, 1685.

Copy of agreement between William Penn and Fenwick's Executors, April 13, 1684.

Fac Simile of the Death Warrant of Charles I.

"Militaire Discipline or the young Artillery Man, by Collonel William Bariffe," London, 16—, Quarto.

Map of Nova Scotia, &c. 2d Edition, 1776.

Perspective plan of the Battle near Lake George, 1755.

ORIGINAL MEMBERS,

ENROLLED UNDER THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED MAY 7, 1845.

S. Alofsen, *Jersey City.*
Rev. Archibald Alexander, D.D., *Princeton.*

Joseph P. Bradley,*† *Newark.*
Maurice Beasley, M D., *Dennisville, C. May.*
Alexander M. Bruen, M.D., *Perth Amboy.*
Geo. Clinton Bush,*† *Trenton.*

Rev. James Carnahan, D.D., *Princeton.*
John Chetwood, *Newark.*
Geo. R. Chetwood, M.D., *Elizabethtown.*
John J. Chetwood, *Elizabethtown.*
Rev. Jona. Cogswell, D.D.,*† *N. Brunswick.*
Silas Condit, *Newark.*
John S. Condit, M.D., *Newark.*
Lewis Condict, M.D., *Morristown.*
Nathan W. Condict, M.D., *Morristown.*
Rev. Eli F. Cooley,*† *Trenton.*
Edward Cook, *Newark.*

Rev. G. W. Doane, D.D., LL.D.,† *Burlington.*
Prof. Albert B. Dod, *Princeton.*
Daniel Dodd, jr., *Orange.*
William A. Duer, LL.D., *Morristown.*

Wm. S. Faitoute, *Newark.*
Frederick T. Frelinghuysen, *Newark.*
Richard S. Field,* *Princeton.*

Jeremiah C. Garthwaite, *Newark.*
Henry W. Green,* *Trenton.*
Dudley S. Gregory, *Jersey City.*
Archer Gifford,*† *Newark.*
John Griscom, LL.D., *Burlington.*
Thomas Gordon,*† *Trenton.*

Edward Harris,*† *Trenton.*
Samuel R. Hamilton,*† *Trenton.*
Samuel M. Hamill, *Lawrenceville.*
A. Bruyn Hasbrouck, LL.D., *N. Brunswick.*
Rev. Matthew H. Henderson, *Newark.*
David A. Hayes, *Newark.*
Rev. Charles Hodge, D.D., *Princeton.*
Joseph C. Hornblower, LL.D., *Newark.*
Rev. William H. Hornblower, *Paterson.*

John P Jackson, *Newark.*
Robert G. Johnson, *Salem.*

Charles King,† *Elizabethtown.*
James G. King, *Weehawken.*
William B. Kinney,*† *Newark.*
Francis S. Kinney, *New Brunswick.*

Andrew Lemassena, *Newark.*
William W. Lord, *Princeton.*

Rev. Aaron A. Marcellus,*† *Freehold.*
Rev. David Magie, D.D., *Elizabethtown.*
Rev. Daniel V. McLean,*† *Freehold.*
Prof. John Maclean, D.D., *Princeton.*
Amzi C. McLean, *Freehold.*
John A. Miller, *Newark.*
Rev. Samuel Miller, D.D., *Princeton.*
Silas Merchant, *Newark.*
Rev. Nicholas Murray, D.D.,*† *Elizabethtown.*

Elias B. D. Ogden, *Paterson.*
George T. Olmsted, *Princeton*
James Parker, *Perth Amboy.*
Cortland Parker,* *Newark.*
Rev. Andrew B. Patterson,† *Princeton.*
William Paterson, *Perth Amboy.*
S. V. R. Paterson, *Perth Amboy.*
William Pennington, *Newark.*
Alexander C. M. Pennington, *Newark.*
Samuel H. Pennington, M.D., *Newark.*
Charles L. Pearson,* *Trenton.*
Rev. S. I. Prime, *Newark.*
Rev. John Proudfit, D.D., *New Brunswick.*
Stacy G. Potts,*† *Trenton.*

Joseph F. Randolph,† *Trenton.*
William P. Robeson,*† *Belvidere.*
David Ryerson, *Newton.*

Hon. Charles C. Stratton,† *Swedesborough.*
Rev. Chas. S. Stewart, *U. S. Navy.*
John H. Stephens, *Newark.*
Jona. J. Spencer, M.D.*† *Moorestown.*
Lyndon A. Smith, M.D., *Newark.*
Thos. J. Stryker, *Trenton.*

Rev. Benj. C. Taylor, D.D., *Bergen.*
Rev. Wm. J. R. Taylor, *New Durham.*
Rev. Anthony Ten Broeck, *Orange.*

Peter D. Vroom, *Trenton.*
Robert Van Arsdale, *Newark.*

Asa Whitehead, *Newark.*
Wm. A. Whitehead,*† *Newark.*
John Whitehead, *Newark.*
Wm. Wright, *Newark.*

* Present and aided in framing the Constitution at Trenton, Feb. 27, 1845.
† Enrolled their names on that day in Trenton.

A DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

MAY 7, 1845,

BY CHARLES KING, Esq.

Of Elizabethtown.

PUBLISHED BY THE REQUEST OF THE SOCIETY.

A DISCOURSE.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Historical Society:

In presenting myself on this occasion to make the first address before the Historical Society of New Jersey, I am not insensible of the honor devolved upon me. I did indeed desire that a native son should have been selected to open the career, destined, I trust, to be long and honorably useful, of your Society—one of the many names consecrated in the annals of the State by personal merit or ancestral renown. But it was your pleasure to exact this service of me, who from another State, once indeed forming with this but one colony, have come to sit down by your fireside, to ask a share in its simple domestic happiness, and to fulfil to the best of my abilities such part as may be allotted to me of the obligations of a dutiful citizen.

A portion of the citizens of New Jersey have at length resolved to do justice to the State and to its illustrious annals, by instituting the Society of which the first public meeting is now held, and of which the highest duty will be to collect and to preserve whatever shall tend to elucidate the origin, settlement and history of the State, and the merits and fame of those who have served it in any and every station.

After much discussion, and notwithstanding the failure of some previous attempts to organize a Historical Society, a public meeting was held at Trenton in February last; at which with great unanimity it was decided that a Historical Society should be formed forthwith, and in consequence, a Constitution was framed and adopted, officers were chosen, and the first annual meeting appointed for this day.

Here then and now commences the actual life of the Historical Society of New Jersey, and upon those whom this day has brought together either in person, or where unavoidably absent, in good wishes for our success, must it very much depend, whether the Society shall be equal to the occasion which calls it into existence, and to the pure beauty of the annals of our State.

It is an honorable instinct that prompts men to perpetuate the memory of their forefathers, and to preserve from the decay which overtakes all physical nature, those acts and counsels, which, springing from and informed by the soul, are, like it, capable of immortality. It is in this respect that an Existence, having in some things common relations with the beasts that perish, rises in others to the dignity of its diviner essence.

The indulgence of this instinct moreover is fraught with positive benefits—not in the sense merely that every duty discharged is a source of happiness secured, and that they who with filial piety do honor to the just renown of their forefathers, give proof of their own worthiness—but that the memory, and as it were the presence of a glorious, national ancestry, exercise, imperceptibly it may be, but irresistibly, a most salutary influence upon their posterity—alike in restraining from the commission of low or unbecoming acts, and in exciting an honorable emulation to equal if not excel their progenitors.

It was upon this principle that the Romans conceded it as a privilege to those who had attained to high station in the republic, that their images or statues should be carefully made and preserved as the precious inheritance of their descendants: and we have the testimony of Sallust to the effect of these dumb but eloquent remembrancers in the fine passage where he relates that he had frequently heard the great Fabius, the wary and successful opponent of Hannibal, and Scipio Africanus his conqueror, and other illustrious men of the republic say, that whenever they looked upon the images of their ancestors, they felt their own minds vehemently excited to like virtue. Not, adds the author, that the mere form and outward figure had any such influence, but that the memory of their noble deeds, kindled a flame in the bosoms of these illustrious men which could never be extinguished until they had achieved like glory and renown.

In our days the principle of association and the art of printing combined, afford far easier and more efficacious means of kindling this flame in ingenuous minds, than the Sculptor or the Painter—glorious as is their art—ever possessed; for their sphere is limited to the comparatively few who may have the opportunity to behold their works, but the Press speaks to a world, and when employed by such an association as that here assembled, to perpetuate the renown of a national ancestry such as we can boast, cold must be the enthusiasm, and feeble the virtue of the race which it cannot inflame with reverence for the past and emulation for the future.

Such, gentlemen, seems to me the mission which we have under-

taken, and it cannot be without encouragement for us to know how successfully, in other States, a like mission has been accomplished. With a history inferior to none other in purity not less than in brilliancy, New Jersey comes late into the field of Historical Investigation; several States have preceded her in the formation of Historical Societies, and a brief notice of what has been accomplished by some of these, will fitly occupy a part of the hour allotted to me by the usages of such an occasion as this, and serve at the same time it is hoped to encourage the efforts which we have at length resolved to make "to discover, procure and preserve whatever relates to any department of the History of New Jersey."

New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana all have their Societies. To only a few can reference now be made.

Of Massachusetts, we are first to speak for she was first in the field. Jeremy Belknap was the chief founder of her Historical Society. His services to the historical literature of the country were thus fitly commemorated by John Quincy Adams at the last Anniversary Festival of the New York Historical Society.

"He was," said Mr. Adams, "indirectly the founder of all Historical Societies throughout the land. A man of whom the country may justly be proud. He was the pastor of a small congregation in Dover, New Hampshire, and he wrote the History of New Hampshire, a work that has no superior for its truthfulness or general value; and of whom and his History, a distinguished French traveller,* a man conspicuous in his own age, though unfortunate in his end, said: "he was the author of the precious History of New Hampshire." He also wrote the first volumes of American Biography; and was the author of a Collection of Hymns and Psalms, that is still used in many parts of Massachusetts, and which has improved the poetry and literature of those who use it."

His History of N. H. was the labor of twenty-two years, and his last volume, published in 1793, nine years after the first, tells us that the sale of the preceding volumes had not defrayed the expenses of publication. The materials which he brought together for the purpose of writing this work, with those of *Minot*, the historian of Mass., formed the nucleus of the valuable and now extensive collections of that Society. The loss of valuable historical documents by fire, and sometimes by heedless or wanton ignorance, had awakened

* Brissot de Warville.

the attention of those interested in their preservation, to devise means for their collection and security in some permanent place of deposit. The materials for the early History of New England had suffered severely before these first steps were taken in this matter; and the traditions of rich heaps of family papers—the dusty accumulations of generations, which served to light the fires of some thrifty housewife, excite in us the same regretful indignation which burns in the remembrance of the famous Shakspearian MSS., which Warburton's cook "*put under pye bottoms.*"

Attention once awakened to the subject, it was not long before the Society was formed which was incorporated in 1794. First in the field, it possessed many advantages in securing valuable books and papers; and all New England contributed to swell its collections. It would be impossible to trace the historical productions to which its influence has given birth or occasion, a hasty glance at its own decades of collections must suffice.

They have published twenty-eight vols., having nearly completed their third series of 10 vols. each. At the end of each series, is a most valuable index to the vols. which none but those who have waded through seas of undigested materials in search of some trifling fact, can appreciate. The vols. contain, besides original papers of great interest, many valuable reprints of scarce tracts illustrative of our earliest history, and a great variety of miscellaneous information on almost all topics connected with the History, not of the U. S. only, or of their colonial condition, from their first settlement, but likewise of the whole continent. The value of these materials of history cannot be fully appreciated at the present day. In many cases, absolutely rescued from destruction, a future age alone will develope their worth.

New Hampshire.—Next to Mass. and New York, the New Hampshire Society has accomplished more than any other. They have published five volumes. Perhaps quite as much has been done for the history of N. H. as of any State in the Union. The occasion of the second centennial celebration of the Settlement of New Hampshire, at Portsmouth, was taken as a favorable time for the formation of the Historical Society, and the zealous efforts of a few who had been interested in historical pursuits, were highly successful. The Library and Collection of the Society, though small, are very valuable.

Maine.—Upon the erection of Maine, in 1820, into a new State distinct from Massachusetts, several gentlemen, interested in the promotion of historical inquiry and knowledge, determined to form a

Society similar to those already in existence in Massachusetts and New York. A charter was obtained in 1822, and measures were taken to bring together the scattered fragments, which were quite successful.

In 1831, their first and as yet, only volume was published, a handsome octavo, containing, among other papers of historical interest, the original letters of *Arnold* while on the Expedition across Maine to Quebec in 1775, with Col. Montresor's Journal of a Tour from the St. Lawrence to the Kennebec in 1760. It was this last Journal, falling into the hands of Arnold, which suggested the idea of the expedition of 1775. He proposed it, and obtained the command. A select corps was detached from the army at Cambridge, which, penetrating the wilds of the Kennebec, was destined to co-operate with the other forces sent to Canada by the northern lakes, in the reduction of Quebec. It was in this siege that Montgomery fell, winning for himself imperishable laurels, and Arnold displayed that resolute and determined fortitude and bravery, that rendered doubly odious his subsequent treachery.

An accurate journal of the Expedition, compiled by President *Allen*, accompanied the publications above, in the collections.

It is to be hoped, that this Society will renew its exertions, and furnish fresh contributions to our history and antiquities.

The History of Maine by W. D. Williamson is a work of authority and value, and William Willis's History of Portland contains much that is valuable.

Ohio.—The Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio was incorporated in the same year as that of Maine, and has published one volume. It contains among other discourses one by Gen. Harrison on the Aborigines of the Ohio Valley. The field is a rich one, thrown open in the history of that Valley during the successive periods of its discovery and settlement by the French, followed by that of the English, with the war of 1756, and the American period, commencing with the Revolution.

The literary and commercial capital of Ohio, *Cincinnati*, has a numerous, zealous, and well-instructed body of literary men, and to them and to the Historical Association we may confidently look for investigation that will elucidate the yet unwritten history of the great valley.

Virginia.—The Virginia Society was organized in 1831. Their only publication has been a thin 8vo., which contains among others, a paper of considerable interest curiously illustrative of the senti-

ments and customs of the early time in Virginia. It is the trial of one Grace Sherwood for witchcraft, in 1705, in Princess Anne Co., Va., in which the customary ordeal, the witchduck, was witnessed by the Court. So that Virginia divides the honors of this ancient belief in witchcraft with the more Northern and Eastern States, or rather it serves to show the prevalence of such notions in all parts of the country. I believe, too, that such trials were common in England at that time.

Although the Virginia Society have been asleep since the publication of this volume, recent movements indicate renewed vitality, and promise highly satisfactory results. Several memorials and papers have been addressed to the Legislature, through the columns of the Southern Literary Messenger, on the subject of their Colonial History.

KENTUCKY.—Its Society, founded and incorporated in 1838, have collected considerable material for the early History of the West, fragments of correspondence of the Pioneers, and much, illustrative of the Border warfare, the irregular military history of that section.

There is also a Society in INDIANA, and one recently formed in MARYLAND and in IOWA. All these have begun the work of collection and preservation, which, more or less vigorously prosecuted, will contribute much to relieve the labors of the future historian.

The PENNSYLVANIA Historical Society was established in 1825. Previous to that, in the year 1815, the Historical and Literary Committee of the American Philosophical Society was constituted, with reference to enquiries indicated by its title, and led the way very successfully to the formation of the Historical Society, having in 1819 enriched American annals and stimulated public interest by publishing *Heckelweder's* account of the Indian tribes which once inhabited Pennsylvania.

The Historical Society signalized the first year of their existence by publishing a small volume of transactions, to which they have since added five or six other volumes embracing much valuable matter, and especially illustrating different settlements and prominent individuals of their own State.

They published moreover a translation by that learned and enthusiastic scholar and jurist M. Duponceau, of *Campanius's* history of the Swedish settlements in the Delaware, and more recently have given to the world an acute and critical pamphlet, to which a more detailed reference will hereafter be made, by John Pennington, a bookseller in Philadelphia, which examines with much research and

ingenuity some histories of New Jersey of most imposing pretensions.

New York.—We have reserved to the last the notice of the New York Historical Society, because it has more immediate relations to us than that of any other State. This Society was incorporated some 40 years ago. Its first projectors, who met together on 20th November, 1804, were Egbert Benson, De Witt Clinton, Rev. Wm. Linn, Rev. Samuel Miller, Dr. David Hosack, Rev. John M. Mason, Rev. John N. Abeel, Samuel Bayard, Peter G. Stuyvesant, Anthony Bleecker and John Pintard. Of this distinguished band but two survive—and one of them adorns as President one of the highest seminaries of education in this state.

For many years the Society, even with all the advantages of such auspices, struggled with many difficulties and vicissitudes, and was so poor in its archives and library, even as late as 1812, that Dr. John W. Francis, one of its enthusiastic members, apprehensive after the declaration of war against England in that year, that the treasures few but precious then collected, might be destroyed by a hostile attack on the city, conveyed them with his own hands, it might almost be said on his own back, to a place of security. On other occasions, both in personal exertion and pecuniary expenditures, Dr. Francis contributed largely to sustain the infant society. Nevertheless, in 1811 the first volume of Transactions was published, which very fitly opens, after giving the Constitution of the Society, with a discourse delivered by the Rev. Dr. Miller on the 4th of September, 1809—being the completion of the second century since the discovery by Hudson of the North River—and designed to commemorate the event. It also republished *Verrezano's* letter to Francis I., describing his discoveries on the American coast, and the several journals of Hudson's voyages. At unequal intervals the Society has continued to issue volumes of its transactions, which now are numerous.

Firmly established in the public favor, it is now enabled successfully to pursue its labors in the cause of historical and antiquarian research. It has been particularly fortunate in securing many valuable MSS. and has a library rich in books and maps illustrating our early annals. Papers that may hereafter prove of infinite service in determining important questions of fact, and which otherwise might have been lost, are preserved and rendered accessible.*

* Proceedings of the N. Y. Historical Society for 1843. pp. 8 and 9.

The State has looked with much favor on the efforts of this Society, has made to it very considerable pecuniary grants, and on its suggestion, caused to be published a series of valuable records that had remained almost inaccessible in the public archives. This publication contains a mass of documents illustrative of the early part of our revolutionary annals, commencing with the first organized resistance to the colonial authorities, and ending with the journal of the Convention that formed the Constitution of independent State Government, comprising also the period of the invasion of the State by Gen. Burgoyne and of his defeat and surrender on the plains of Saratoga.

More important than this was the decision of the State, also adopted on the suggestion of the Society, warmly seconded by the citizens at large, to send an agent to Europe for the purpose of obtaining copies of early colonial records in the custody of foreign governments.

How fortunately that mission resulted, and how judicious the choice of the Agent, Mr. Brodhead, all the country has heard, and the State of New York, and every other State, and the United States, are greatly richer in the materials of history, which the intelligent labors of Mr. Brodhead have secured.

The Society had it in its power in 1820 to repay to the State in part the benefits it had received, for the Legislature being desirous to print and publish, for the first time, the journal of the Colonial Assembly of New York, from 1763 to '75, the only known copy in existence was among the MSS. of the Historical Society, and was freely placed at the disposition of the Legislature.

The Library now contains about 10,000 bound volumes, of which 600 are of pamphlets, averaging 10 to each volume—probably constituting a collection of tracts and pamphlets not surpassed in value or interest in any institution in the country. It has been well said that "it is in these fugitive publications that much of the material of after history lies; local history, politics, religion, the thoughts of individuals on the topics of the day, the workings of corporations and societies are embodied chiefly in them. In the pamphlets of the last century, we find most that we have of the peculiar views of the Colonists, their opinions, their grievances, the motives of their conduct. From the ephemeral character of these publications, they are less frequently preserved, while their value for reference increases with their scarcity."* In its collection of newspapers, too, the Society is very rich, having between 5 and 600 volumes already bound,

* Proceedings of 1843. pp. 20-4.

among which is the official Paris Moniteur from the year '89 to 1815, containing the history and incidents day by day of the French Revolution, the Consulate, the Empire, the Overthrow and the Restoration. There are many files also which as yet are unbound.

In MSS. of great historical importance, the Society has been most fortunate—the Gates papers in 22 vols., the Steuben papers in 16, the papers of Lord Stirling in 3, the Diary of DeWitt Clinton in 10—are among the most important, and this is indeed one of the great benefits which the Society confers ; for very many individuals will deposit with such an institution family papers, which they would not willingly part with to other individuals.

The N. Y. Historical Society holds out to us the greatest encouragement, for nothing could be feebler than its beginning, and nothing more gratifying than its present established utility and progressive efficiency.

The History of New Jersey claims not less honor or justice at the hands of her sons, than that of either of the States to which we have referred. Her escutcheon is stained with no crime against the *aborigines*, with no persecution for conscience's sake of those who for conscience's sake had sought her shores. Planted originally by the spirit of commerce—the benificent genius of civilization—the policy of her settlers was peace, industry, and extended intercourse. They grasped not at the possessions of others—followed out their own quiet career, but though peaceful in their pursuits, and in character, they were ever ready to furnish their full contingent to those wars, in which the ambition or the policy of the mother country invoked their aid. As Colonists they were loyal and brave. When driven by oppression into resistance—to them be it remembered mainly speculative oppression, and of which they felt the hardships and the wrong rather through sympathy with their sister colonies, than from any actual suffering of their own, they proved themselves as resolute and formidable in war, as they had been contented and loyal in peace—and on their soil emphatically was Freedom conquered.

A rapid survey of the past will make good this exordium. The first Europeans who landed on the shores of New Jersey—setting aside the possible but unproved hypothesis that its coast had been visited by the Northmen in the 10th century—were the companions of Hendrick Hudson, an English mariner in the service of the Dutch East India Company, who on 3d September, 1609, anchored his vessel called the *Half Moon* within Sandy Hook. The proud and ambitious device of the Mahomedan crescent when first displayed

against the Imperial City of Constantine *donec impleat orbem*, has been realized by the results of the voyage of this modest Dutch *Half Moon*, a small vessel of about 80 tons burthen—of which the first light cast upon these then desert and unknown shores, has gone on increasing till in rounding its circle it has indeed filled the globe.

In ascribing the first landing on our shores to the companions of Hudson, the coasting voyages of other preceding navigators along the American seaboard from north to south, including that portion within which lies New Jersey, are not overlooked. Sebastian Cabot in 1498 under the flag of England, John Verrezano in 1523 under the flag of France, and Stephen Gomez in 1524–5 under the flag of Spain, all ran along our coast; but, excepting *Verrezano*, held no communication with the natives of this State. Verrezano indeed saw, without communicating with, the inhabitants—for in his letter to Francis I. describing his visit to a great harbor and river, supposed to be that of New York, the numerous canoes rowing from shore to shore, and the friendly signs and shouts of the Indians inviting them to land and pointing out where the boat could best approach the shore, he says "upon the sudden (as is wont to fall out in sayling) a contrary flaw of winde coming from the sea, we were enforced to return to our ship, leaving this land to our great discontentment, for the great commodity and pleasantnesse thereof, which we suppose is not without some riches, all the hills shewing mineral matters in them."*

Verrezano left the bay without further attempt at intercourse with the natives, and proceeded to Newport harbor, where he remained several days and there, as on parts of the coast farther south, held frequent communications with the Indians.

To Hudson then, as before stated, belongs the honor of revealing to the world the region we inhabit, and the magnificent bay and river which constitute our Eastern boundary. On Thursday, the 3rd Sept., Hudson brought the Half Moon into Sandy Hook, and the next day anchored over in what is now called the Horse Shoe, in 4½ fathoms, two cable lengths from the shore, finding great store of salmon, mullets and rayes. In the course of the night his vessel drove ashore, but without suffering damage owing to the soft sand and ooze. In the morning the natives went on board, testifying pleasure at the arrival of the strangers and bringing green tobacco. Some of the crew went into the interior of what is now Monmouth Co., the next day and saw "great store of men, women and children, who gave them tobacco on coming to land, and some dried currants,

* N. Y. Historical Collection, Vol. I. p. 52.

(probably whortleberries.) The natives were dressed "some in mantles of feathers and some in skins of diverse sorts of good furres. Some women also came to us with hempe. They had red copper tobacco pipes and other things of copper they did wear about their neck."*

Unhappily this good understanding did not long remain undisturbed, for on the 6th day a boat with five men sent to sound the harbor northwards so as to prepare the way for ascending the great river, which they saw before them, having penetrated through the narrows and into the upper bay, was, on her return, set upon by two canoes, the one with 12 the other with 14 men—and night coming on accompanied with rain, the match in the boat went out, and they could make only an unequal fight. One of the men, John Colman, was slain by an arrow through the throat, and two others were hurt—but the boat, though unable that night, owing to the darkness, to find the ship, reached her the next day. The dead man was buried on Sandy Hook, which, in the Journal from which we quote, is called Colman's Point, in memory of their lost companion. Thus the first memorial of the white man in this State was a grave!

After repairing the vessel and thoroughly sounding the passage, Hudson on the 10th day began the ascent of the river which bears his name. As his ship advanced into the country, it became an object of alternate wonder and terror to the simple natives. At one time regarded as a monster from the great deep, at another as an apparition from the world of spirits—the final conclusion seems to have been that it was a mighty canoe under the guidance of the Great Spirit and navigated by inferior divinities. We are told of the despatch of runners, a convention of Sachems and the reception of their presumed celestial visitant with propitiatory offerings which, though the authority for it be tradition, wears sufficiently the semblance of truth, to be adopted by the historian as probable.†

Vanderdonk, who wrote in 1650 and had seen, and conversed with Indians that remembered the arrival of Hudson, states, that they had no knowledge of any previous visit of white men. Verrezano's voyage was 85 years antecedent, and it seems hardly probable, that if he had any communication with the natives, it should have passed so soon from the memory of the tribes, and so entirely, as the surprize and terror at the approach of Hudson's ship indicate.

The report made by Hudson to his employers led to immediate

* Juet's Journal 2 vol. N. Y. Historical Collections, p. 134.

† Whitehead MSS. chap. I.

plans of colonization, and the first European settlement in New Jersey was by Dutch colonists, probably about 1618, at Bergen. From the name, it is conjectured that among the colonists were enough Norwegians to impose upon the new settlement, the name of their own capital. For some time this was probably only a trading place for the Indians. The houses were placed near each other for mutual protection, while farms were cultivated around the village. To this day there reside on some of these farms, the descendants of the race that there first entered upon the settlement of the wilderness, occupying the same grounds and possessing many of the peculiarities of habits and character which marked their ancestors.*

And who were those ancestors? It will appear hereafter that New Jersey was originally and wholly a Dutch colony. We are accustomed to hear in annual orations the praises of the Puritans of New England, and the boasts of their descendants—which can only become reproaches when the race that utters them shall degenerate from the simple virtues of their progenitors. The courtly cavaliers of Virginia, the tolerant Catholics of Maryland, the self-denying Friends of Pennsylvania, the brave and suffering Huguenots of South Carolina, all have their eulogists—while the Dutch ancestry of this and the adjoining State has been rather ridiculed than honored.

Yet are they worthy of all honorable commemoration, for at the very moment when their merchants were founding settlements in this new world, the nation was struggling at home against the most powerful empire of Europe for the maintenance of long enjoyed and much cherished independence—for religious and for civil liberty. A bigoted and bloody foe menaced both. Former friends and associates abandoned them, but faithful to their early history, and resolved to preserve and to transmit, the rights themselves had received, they had for thirty years sustained the unequal conflict. Two millions of men, inhabiting a country of less than nine million acres of land, against the most powerful nation of Europe! A hollow truce of twelve years had suspended in 1609, the fierce contest, to be resumed again and carried on for twenty-seven years more, until, in 1648, the treaty of Westphalia acknowledged the independence so long and bravely vindicated.

By what miracle did these feeble provinces resist the mighty empire? The answer, in the eloquent language of another, is that "it was by the will of Him who holds in his hand the destinies of mankind. He bade their gloomy climate produce a persevering

* Whitehead MSS. chap. I.

people, whose industry no toil could abate, whose fortitude no danger could dismay. He gave them leaders sagacious, intrepid, active, unwearied, incorruptible. He, as of old, of the eater brought forth meat, and from the strong sweetness. He gave them food from a tempestuous ocean, and treasure from the jaws of devouring despotism. But if, with reverence, we seek those causes to which reason may trace events, we shall find the miracle we admire to have been the work of commerce. From the sea they gathered means to defend the land against hostile armies on one side, and against the sea itself on the other; for the singularity of their situation exposed them alike to be inundated and to be subdued. The sea which threatened, and still threatens to overwhelm them, gave access to the riches of both the Indies. They pursued along that perilous road, the persecutors of mankind, and wrested from their grasp the unrighteous plunder of Mexico and Peru. Thus, surrounded by danger, impelled by want, inured to toil, animated by exertion, strengthened by faith, stimulated by hope, and exalted by religion, a few miserable fishermen, scattered on a sterile coast, were converted into a race of heroes. They acquired power in the struggle for existence, and wealth under the weight of taxation."

Such, gentlemen, were our Dutch ancestors, who immediately after concluding the twelve years truce came hither and brought with them their "skill, their integrity, their liberty, and their courage."* Are not their memorials worthy of investigation and preservation, or can filial piety be more gratefully evinced than in seeking to collect and embody what may yet remain of authentic records of such a glorious race?

The Dutch West India Company in order to induce emigration to the New Netherlands, which included New Jersey, made grants of large tracts of land to those who would stipulate to establish colonists upon them within a certain time—these proprietors were styled Patroons, and one of them named *Michael Pauw* became possessor of the Islands and portions of the main land from Bergen Point up to Hoboken, to which by latinizing his name he gave the general title of Pavonia. Many settlements were made between the Raritan and Hackensack rivers by the Dutch, and the laws, usages and language of these people prevailed very generally in East Jersey, till the flag and authority of Holland were in 1664 superseded by those of England under the grant to the Duke of York by Charles II.

For fifty years the Dutch had held undisputed sway and if their

*Gouveneur Morris's speech before N. Y. Historical Society for 1814, Vol. II. p. 124.

progress in New Jersey was not greater, nor their improvements more extensive, it may be accounted for in part by the Indian hostilities by which they were assailed.

Of the names or numbers of the Indian tribes within the limits of New Jersey, the accounts are imperfect and uncertain. A narrative of very questionable authenticity, to which we shall have occasion to refer hereafter, the description of New Albion by Beauchamp Plantagenet, published in 1648, states that the natives here were under the dominion of some 20 Kings or Chiefs. Twelve hundred were under the two Raritan Kings on the north side next to Hudson's river, and the whole number in the province while under the Dutch, did not probably exceed two thousand—they were of the *Lenni Lenape* or Delawares. On the early maps of New Jersey an Indian path is designated as running from Shrewsbury on the Atlantic in a north-westerly direction, crossing the Raritan a little to the westward of Amboy (a corruption from the Indian word Ompoge,) and thence in a northerly direction traversing the whole State to Minisink Island in the Delaware near our northern boundary—this was the great Indian thoroughfare from the interior to the Salt Sea, and is frequently referred to in deeds and records as the Minisink path. With the tribes around them the settlers in East Jersey seem to have lived in entire harmony—a harmony founded upon a commerce deemed reciprocal in advantages—whatever it may have been in fact. Every foot of the land they occupied had been bought of the Indians for prices with which they were content, and the first disturbance of amicable relations came from the South river, as the Dutch called the Delaware, in contradistinction from the North or Hudson's river.*

In pursuance of their plan of founding Commercial Colonies in America, the Dutch West India Company to whom in 1621 the States General had granted an immense tract of territory upon the American seaboard claimed in virtue of the discovery of Hudson, despatched an expedition under Cornelius Jacobus Mey, in 1623, with all the means of founding a settlement. He entered the South instead of the North river, gave to its northern Cape the name it still retains, and sailing up it as far almost as the present site of Philadelphia, he built Fort *Nassau* on the eastern bank and at the intersection with it of a small stream now known as Timber Creek a few miles below Camden.† How long Mey occupied Fort Nassau and what the cause of his departure, neither history nor tradition records—but the next vessel which arrived in the Delaware eight years afterwards found the

* Whitehead MS. ch. I.

† Mickle's Reminiscences of Gloucester.

Fort in possession of the Indians and the country abandoned by the colonists. But Mey left behind him a good name, and was lamented by the natives the more, from the contrast in character and conduct of those who followed him.*

De Vries in 1632 reached the Delaware, and hearing nothing of Mey's colony he established himself on the west side of the river on Lewis Creek, and the settlement took its name of Hoerenkill from discreditable incidents connected with the landing. Having firmly seated his colony, *De Vries* returned to Holland, committing the government to one *Osset*, whose folly provoked the first Indian outbreak. In token of the dominion of the States General, *Osset* had caused the arms of Holland to be painted on tin and set up on a column, in a conspicuous place. Struck with admiration for this painted bauble and ignorant of its symbolical meaning, one of the simple sons of the forest appropriated it as a personal ornament. *Osset* resented this as a national insult, and so worried and frightened the Indians that they at last brought him the head of the offender.* It is related that the Dutch Governor was shocked and grieved at such a result, wholly unwished for, as he protested, and unexpected; but it sank deep in the hearts of the Indians, and although perpetrated by themselves, the act was ascribed to the domineering influence of the stranger, and bloody was the retribution they exacted. At that period of the year when the garrison was engaged in field labors, the Indians entered the fort, guarded by a single sentinel, on the usual pretext of trade, slew the soldier and the unsuspecting Governor; then pouring out into the fields, massacred indiscriminately all the Europeans. When *De Vries* returned with fresh colonists in December, 1632, he found only the mutilated bodies of his countrymen and the ashes of their dwellings. Unable or unwilling to take vengeance, he was fain to pardon, and listened to the narrative of the slaughter of his countrymen as related by the chiefs who visited his ships. He renewed his treaty with them and then narrowly escaped the fate of Osset and his band. Distressed for want of provisions, he was persuaded by the Indians to ascend the river beyond Fort Nassau, and enter the Timmerkill, now Cooper's creek, where they pretended were large stores of maize, but where in fact an ambush was planned to cut them off. They were forewarned and saved by an Indian girl—a second Pocahontas—who went on board the vessel and revealed the plot; informing them at the same time that previously a vessel and crew (supposed to be from Vir-

* Gordon, p. 9.

ginia)* had been cut off there. De Vries returned to fort Nassau, which he found in possession of the Indians. He forthwith drove them out, but disappointed in his hopes, and too humane to be a conqueror of naked savages, he re-embarked all the colonists, abandoned the settlements, and returned to Holland, carrying back to the fatherland, says a recent annalist of West Jersey, "even the bricks he had brought where withal to build houses."†

Thus, then, after the expiration of twenty-five years from the discovery of the Delaware by Hudson, not a European remained upon its shores.

These hostilities of the Indians on the Delaware which had in fact driven away the white man, led too soon to discontent and bloodshed against the Indians bordering on the Hudson. The colonists appear to have provoked here, as elsewhere, the anger of the natives, and in 1640 an expedition was fitted out against the Raritan Indians, wrongfully accused of theft and other offences, which led on their part to a dreadful retaliation, principally directed against the settlers on Staten Island; the inhabitants were slaughtered and their dwellings given to the flames. A general Indian war was the result. On the part of the Dutch authorities at New Amsterdam great dissimulation preceded the blow, for they directed that "kind intercourse and the usual trade in corn should continue with them as before, until God's will and a proper opportunity is offered." On the night of the 25th February, 1642, that opportunity, according to the judgment of Gov. Kieft came, and without notice or previous quarrel he sent over a detachment of soldiers to Pavonia and murdered eighty Indians in their sleep, or as they sought to escape. "Worthy indeed of old Rome," says the indignant De Vries, then a member of Gov. Kieft's council and the only dissentient from this crime, "was their victory—to massacre a parcel of Indians in their sleep, to take the children from the breast of the mothers, to butcher them in the presence of their parents, and throw their mangled limbs in the fire or the water. Other sucklings fastened to little boards were in that position cut to pieces." On the same night forty other Indians were massacred under like circumstances at Corlaer's Hook. The orders for this expedition, which are on record, were "to spare as much as

* De Vries touched in Virginia after abandoning the Delaware, and was told by the Governor that a sloop from there went to the Delaware in 1633, and was never heard of more. Hence the conjecture, that this was the vessel referred to by the Indian woman.—De Vries Jour. in du Simtrees MSS. Phil. Library, 4to. No. 1413, p. —.

† Mickle's Gloucester, p. 5.

possible the wives and children and to take the savages prisoners." It would be grateful to ascribe the disregard of these orders to individual exasperation and brutality, but for the fact that the parties concerned were rewarded for this service.*

The Indians every where retaliated, except that more humane than their Christian enemies, they spared women and children. In the following October they captured a guard of soldiers in Pavonia and destroyed the colonists' houses. So serious were the consequences of this warfare that in March next year the authorities of New Amsterdam proclaimed a solemn fast to avert the anger of Jehovah, and in the course of the following year peace was permanently restored, nor was it again seriously interrupted until the British Conquest.

In West Jersey, after the unsuccessful attempts of Mey and De Vries to colonize the shores of the South river, the Swedes established themselves on its western bank in what is now the State of Delaware, and a settlement was attempted on the eastern shore by some English adventurers under a grant of Charles I. to the lord Palatine Plowden, of a region described as New Albion, and embracing the whole country from Long Island to Pennsylvania. Concerning this settlement, the first made by the English in New Jersey, very vague and contradictory accounts are given, and it is one of the problems which a New Jersey Historical Society may well propose to itself to elucidate. All that seems certain is, that such a charter was granted by Charles I. to Plowden, since a copy of it bearing date 21 June, 1634, exists, and is published in Hazard's pamphlets, volume 37. All those who have written about New Jersey, also speak of it and of the attempts at colonization under it, but whether any actual settlement within New Jersey, was made at all, seems unascertained.

Smith says casually, that "the Dutch mention Sir Edward Ployden as claiming property in the country under grant from James I." (it should be Charles I.) but gives no hint about any settlement.†

Gordon considers it probable that the New Albion Company sent out agents who visited different parts of the province, some of whom established themselves there; that the Palatine and some of his friends, among whom was Plantagenet, sought temporary cover from the storm of civil war in England, amid the American wilds; that a fort named *Erewomec*, was erected at the mouth of Pensauckin creek, on the Jersey shore, and that there was a considerable settlement at Watcessi or Oitigessing, the present site of Salem, which was subse-

* Whitehead's MS. quoting De Vries in N. Y. Hist. Col.

† Smith's New Jersey, p. 24.

quently broken up by the united forces of the Dutch and Swedes. No known vestige of these settlements remains and all in relation to their fate is conjectural.* Bancroft, on the other hand, places the Plowden settlement in Virginia. "The favor of Stafford," says he, "had also obtained for Sir Ed. Ployden a gift of New Albion, or Long Island, with the country on the Delaware. The Lord Palatine attempted a settlement; but the want of a pilot compelled him to enter the Chesapeake, and his people were absorbed in the happy province of Virginia. He was never able to dispossess the Swedes."†

This last remark seems in contradiction with the previous statement that the Plowden settlers were directed to Virginia, for *there* were no Swedes to dispossess, and the allegation that they were never able to dispossess the Swedes implies that they had been in the Delaware,—where only the Swedes were to be found, and made the the attempt to dispossess them.

The authority quoted by Bancroft is nevertheless very explicit; that of Winthrop,‡ the Historian of Massachusetts, who says under date of 1648, "Here (at Boston) arrived one Sir Ed. Ployden who had been in Virginia almost seven years. He came first with a patent of a County Palatine for Delaware Bay, but wanting a pilot for that place he went to Virginia, and there having lost the estate he had brought over and all his people scattered from him, he came hither to return to England for supplies, intending to return and plant Delaware, if he could get sufficient strength to dispossess the Swedes." There is no trace known in any of the Virginia or Maryland records of this settlement of Ployden.

A recent publication, "Mickle's Reminiscences of Gloucester," considers the attempt to erect a Palatinate on the Delaware as real, and places the visit of Plantagenet, who came out in behalf of the Lord Palatine in 1636, antecedent to which time, (namely in 1633,) Capt. Young and Robt. Evelin, who figure as the chief witnessess to the admirable qualities of New Albion for a colony in Beauchamp Plantagenet's Description of the province published in 1648, "had settled themselves in the country of the Amarongs after whose Sakima, Eziwoneck, they named their first fort." Plantagenet returned to England without falling in with his countrymen, but subsequently it is stated that sometime before 1641, the Earl himself came to New Albion and he and the royal Plantagenet, marched, lodged, and cabined together among the Indians "for seven years." Plan-

* Gordon, p. 18.

† Bancroft, v. II. p. 296.

‡ Winthrop's Hist. Mass. vol. II. p. 325.

tagenet's publication, however, is the authority relied on for these statements.*

Plantagenet's description of New Albion with Master Robert Evelyn's letter published in 1648, was republished several years ago in Washington by that indefatigable and intelligent antiquarian, Peter Force, Esq.,—and this perhaps is the place to say of it, that a very caustic and shrewd examination of the pamphlet by John Pennington, a bookseller of Philadelphia, would seem to prove that the whole story of Plantagenet with the embellishments of Evelyn was a mere speculator's trick, somewhat akin in design to the fair lithograph maps of city lots in primeval forests, or unreclaimed salt marshes, which we have seen in our day exhibited, to invite settlers and purchasers to the new *El Dorado*.†

Yet as late as 1784, after the revolutionary war and the complete and acknowledged independence of the United States, Charles Varlo, claiming to have purchased a share in the Palatinate of New Albion, came to this country to prosecute that claim, and investigate the amount and the whereabouts of the vast possessions included under that designation in the original grant of Charles I. He arrived in Philadelphia and there applied to an eminent and well remembered jurist of that city, *Wm. Rawle, Esq.*, for his aid in making good the claim of the Palatines. It does not appear what steps, if any, were taken in the matter—but at any rate Mr. Varlo soon became discouraged, and returned to Europe; the only memorials we have discovered of his, concerning this claim, are scattered *passim* in a queer book he published called "floating ideas of Nature." He there describes his visit to New Albion in this wise.

"Most of the land toward the South East of the province from Philadelphia to Cape May remains yet under wood, the soil poor, light and sandy, the inhabitants thinly strewed and not over rich. The North West side is rich and populous as most parts of America or England, being stocked with many good towns." In another place he thus adverts to the fate of the original settlement. "New Albion (corruptly called East and West Jersey) is one hundred and twenty miles square and was discovered and settled by Sir Edward Plowden with 500 men. The Earl of Albion gave it to his second son Edward, who with his family went to take possession, but they had not long been there, when the Indians came down and killed the Governor, his wife and children, all but two, and burnt the copy of the

* Mickle, p. 25.

† See John Pennington's Review, vol. IV. of Memoir of Hist. Soc. of Penn.

charter and the records of the grant and settlement." The original charter having been recorded in Ireland, and all trace of the settlement under it in New Albion being obliterated, the memory of the grant was apparently lost, for Charles II. re-granted the whole territory to the Duke of York. Varlo discovering the record in Ireland thereupon became a purchaser under it.

But of Varlo, as of the more high sounding Beauchamp Plantagenet, the Philadelphia bookseller John Pennington disposes as a cheat and an imposter, who was trying to make a speculation out of a worthless title. To finish the episode already probably too long, it may be added that in a MS. History of East Jersey to which we have had access, it is conjectured "that the small English settlement near the present site of Salem, which the Dutch and Swedes, laying aside for a time their mutual quarrels, united to break up in 1641, was, with one or two other Companies subsequently dispossessed, all that constituted Sir Edward Ployden's colony of New Albion."

From all this, it will be seen that although a settlement under the grant of New Albion was undoubtedly attempted, it remains for the researches of this Society to establish where it was, if at all in this State, and what its fate. Notwithstanding their first unsuccessful attempt, the Dutch renewed their projects of colonization on the Delaware, on both banks of which for a time they were encountered as rivals by the Swedes, and Printz Hall on Tinnicum island corrupted from *Tennekong*, with the country now forming the southern part of the State of Delaware, displayed the yellow cross of Sweden, while to the forts at Nassau and Hoerenkill, on the Jersey shore, bearing the Lion flag of their High Mightinesses of Holland, the Dutch in 1651, added Fort Casimir which they built at *Sandhocken*, the present site of New Castle in Delaware. Against the English however, both combined, and some hapless settlers, from New Haven in Connecticut, who, because for *thirty pounds* they had purchased from the Indians a large tract of land on both sides of the Delaware, went to settle there in 1642, were assailed by Swedes and Dutch under Kieft—their goods were destroyed and their persons imprisoned. The united colonies of New England remonstrated in vain through Governor Winthrop, both with Kieft and Printz. The wrong was not repaired.*

In 1650 these New Haven proprietors renewed their attempt and dispatched a vessel with 50 adventurers to settle on the purchased lands. This vessel put into New York, when its destination becoming known to the resolute Gov. Stuyvesant, he seized vessel and crew,

* Gordon, p. 13, 19, &c.

and only released the latter upon a promise that they would return to their homes, giving them warning, that if caught hereafter on the Delaware they should be sent to Holland. The Colony of New Haven continued to assert its claims by representations to the Commissioners of the United Colonies, who in 1658 addressed a missive to Stuyvesant in which the Dutch rights on the Delaware were disposed of as "a mistake" and the rights of the New Haven men treated as too clear to need argument, and therefore requiring that they should be permitted peaceably to enjoy the same. Gov. Stuyvesant did not even vouchsafe a reply, which so exasperated the Connecticut men, that they would at once have resorted to hostilities, if they could have obtained any assurance of support from the other New England Colonies. But the Plymouth Colony having declared that "they did not think it meet, to answer their desire in that behalf, and that they would have no hand in any such controversy," the New Haven men were compelled to forego hostilities and no subsequent attempt was ever made by them to plant a Colony on the Delaware.*

Stuyvesant's contemptuous silence when addressed in behalf of the New Haven pretensions, sprang from the confidence of recent conquest and undisputed supremacy in the debateable region, for in the preceding year, 1654, he sailed on 9th September from New York with a fleet of seven vessels and a force of 600 or 700 men to overthrow the Swedes in the Delaware. The immediate cause of this expedition was that the Swedes, irritated by the erection of Fort Casimir on what they claimed as their side of the river, had surprized the garrison, made prisoners of all who would not swear allegiance to Queen Christina, seized the goods and effects of the Dutch West India Company, and hoisted the flag of Sweden. Stuyvesant arrived before the place on the 16th, summoned it to surrender, which after slight parley, it did, and in the course of a few days every part and settlement of the Swedes including *Printzhoff* or Printz Hall on Tinnicum island acknowledged the Dutch as conquerors, and so terminated forever the brief colonial power of Sweden on this continent.

New Jersey, therefore, at the date of which we are speaking, and until the conquest by the English in 1664 was in all its borders a Dutch Colony both in settlers and government.

But in the year 1664, Charles II. having granted to the Duke of York (his brother) the whole region from the western bank of the Connecticut river to the eastern shore of the Delaware, including Long Island, a fleet was fitted out with a considerable body of land

* Gordon, p. 19.

forces, and although peace was then subsisting between England and the States General, the Commander, Col. Nicholls, was ordered to subdue all the region thus granted to the Duke. On the appearance of the fleet before New York, the spirited Stuyvesant strong in the right of his government and in his own stout heart, wished to make battle, but the inequality of forces was too great—the quiet burghers were less warlike than their Governor, and moreover the English offered easy and honorable terms of capitulation, and in Oct. 1664, New Amsterdam became an English possession taking the name of New York in compliment to the Duke, as Fort Orange, of which the submission followed of course, took that of Albany, the Duke's second title.*

Sir Robert Carr with two frigates was sent to the Delaware where in like manner the English flag, was without bloodshed substituted for that of Holland, and New Jersey, then forming with New York one Colony, passed under the British rule.

These violent proceedings led to immediate war between Great Britain and Holland, of which, however, the effects did not extend to the region, whose forcible occupation by the English had occasioned it, for the Dutch made no effort to recover these colonies, and by the treaty of *Breda* in 1667 they were finally ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain.

Col. Nicholls remained as the Governor of the province he had conquered, and seems to have been a wise and humane magistrate whose first care was to invite settlers and improve the country. Almost contemporaneously with, if not as one of the conditions of, the grant to the Duke of York, the Duke made a separate grant of that part of his domain which constitutes New Jersey, to Lord Berkely and Sir George Carteret. The first care of these new Proprietors was to prepare and publish concessions and agreements, by the liberality of which they hoped to attract many adventurers to the new land of promise.

But before apprized of the subordinate grant to these noblemen by the Duke of York, Nicholls the Governor, following out with eager loyalty his purpose of making the colony of the Duke his master as prosperous and profitable as possible, had granted licenses to various persons to make purchases of lands from the Natives. It was in virtue of such a license that the three townships of Elizabethtown, Woodbridge and Piscataway were settled by some people from Jamaica, L. I., the two Dentons, Bailey, Foster, Watson, and others.

* Gordon, p. 20, 1.

Their deed from the Indians, *Mattano*, *Manawane*, and *Conascomon*, chiefs dwelling on Staten Island, is dated 28th October, 1664, and the tract they purchased for sundry goods, cloth, powder, guns, wampum, *but no liquor*, valued altogether at £36 14s., was thus bounded: "one parcel of land, bounded on the south by a river commonly called the Raritan, and on the east by the river which parts Staten Island from the main, and to run northward up Arthur Cull Bay till we come to the first river which sets westward out of the bay aforesaid, and to run westward into the country twice the length that it is broad from the north to the south, of the aforementioned bounds."*

Unfortunately, these settlers under purchases from the Indians and Gov. Nicholls's license, were early involved in difficulties with the Lords Proprietors and those deriving under them, and hence arose a bitter, vindictive and yet undetermined series of law proceedings relative to land titles in this part of the State not unaccompanied with riots and bloodshed. Our historical annals, however, have derived benefit from the controversy, for the famous Elizabethtown bill in Chancery drawn up by James Alexander and Joseph Murray, of counsel for the Earl of Stair and other Proprietors of East Jersey against certain persons at Elizabethtown, distinguished as the *Clinker-lot right men*, and the answer to the bill on behalf of the men of Elizabethtown prepared and signed by William Livingston and William Smith, Jr., which were published—the first in 1747, the the latter in 1752—have perpetuated much both of the early history and tradition, respecting the settlement of this part of the State.

The concessions of the Proprietors were remarkable for their complete acknowledgement of that principle, the practical violation of which subsequently led to the American revolution—the indissoluble connection between taxation and representation. The Governor and Council, though themselves nominated by the Proprietors, were required "*not to impose nor suffer to be imposed, any tax upon the province or inhabitants, other than that imposed by the General Assembly.*" †

When to this it is added that the most entire liberty of religious worship was stipulated under the sole restriction of not using that

* It may be noted here as a philological curiosity that *Arthur Cull* bay, alluded to in the deed, is thus explained: Kull is the Dutch word for *kill* or creek, and was applied to the water which separates Staten Island from the main. The settlements on the opposite side were said to be *ahter*, behind or beyond. All the region was in Dutch parlance known as *Ahter Kull*, or beyond the kill. The English converted this descriptive phrase into a proper name.

† Gordon, 25, 6.

liberty to licentiousness, nor to the civil injury or outward disturbance of others, and that the laws of England guaranteeing to every man the possession and enjoyment of his own labor were in force, it will be readily perceived how great inducements were offered to settlement.

In farther elucidation of the just and honest spirit in which the Proprietors desired to enter upon their domain, it is to be stated that the first article in the directions of Berkely and Carteret for the government of New Jersey, (dated in December, 1672,) declares "that the land (though ceded in full title by the crown to the proprietors) is to be purchased by the Governor and Council from the Indians," and it is the proud boast of our State, that every foot of land within it, has, in the spirit of these directions, been purchased from the native owners.*

In August, 1665, Philip Carteret with a company of thirty settlers, arrived at Elizabethtown, which he called after his brother's wife, the lady Elizabeth, though the *Clinker-lot* men of Elizabethtown, in answer to the bill in Chancery, insist that *they* gave the name to the place in honor of the great Queen Elizabeth—an afterthought probably put forth to gain the credit of loyalty and some consequent advantage in their suit.

Governor Carteret had a troublesome colony, which finally broke out in open revolt, (1672,) imprisoned officers, confiscated their estates, and forced him to fly the country. A most unexpected event at this juncture, the re-conquest of New York by the Dutch in 1673, led to the consequent subjugation of New Jersey. But the Dutch commander exhibited great moderation and the peace of London in 1674, having restored the colonies to the crown of England, matters went on as before.

In 1675, Philip Carteret returned, and professing to desire a harmonious intercourse with the people, who in the interval of his absence had tasted some of the evils of conquest and suffered under the despotism of Andross, appointed Governor of New York immediately after its restoration to the British crown, were well content to take back their old governor and to trust in his promises, and for several years the only material disturbances arose from Andross, who resisted the attempts of Carteret to render Elizabethtown a rival with New York, for the direct trade to England and to the West Indies, and carried his high handed measures so far as to send an armed force over to Elizabethtown, seize Carteret in his bed, and convey him a prisoner to New York.

* Leaming & Spicer, p. 37.

The disappointment of Berkely in the riches he hoped to draw from New Jersey, and circumstances of private embarrassment, caused him to sell his portion of the territory, and that half of the State now constituting West Jersey was sold to two Quakers, John Fenwick and Edward Byllings. Fenwick, in 1675, sailed from London to the Delaware, in the first English vessel that came to New Jersey with emigrants, and made a prosperous landing at Salem, which he so named from its peaceable aspect. Very many Quakers, to escape from persecution at home, joined these Colonists, and they constituted the largest portion of the settlers in West Jersey.*

In East Jersey the liberality of the concessions had attracted many settlers from New England. Newark was settled in 1666, and on the 11th July, 1667, the Indians sold to the new comers the tract of land "bounded by the bay eastward, and the great river *Pesayak* northward, the great creek or river in the meadow running to the head of the cove, and from thence bearing a west line for the south bounds, which said great creek is known by the name of *Weequahick*, in the west line backwards in the country to the foot of the great mountain called Watchung."

"The consideration," says the MS.† from which we take these facts, "for which the tract now so highly cultivated, and adorned with the snug cottage of the farmer, the splendid villa, the thriving village and the growing city, was relinquished by the Indians, consisted of fifty double hands of powder, one hundred bars of lead, twenty axes, twenty coats, ten guns, twenty pistols, ten kettles, ten swords, four blankets, four barrels of beer, ten pair of breeches, fifty knives, twenty hoes, eight hundred and fifty fathoms of wampum, twenty ankers of liquors, or an equivalent, and three troopers' coats." The purchasers were Connecticut men, mostly from Milford, Branford, and the neighboring towns, and they gave to this new settlement the name of Milford, which afterwards was changed to that of Newark by the Rev. A. B. Pierson, their first minister, who had been ordained in Newark, England. The Connecticut settlers brought with them a spirit of religious intolerance strangely in contrast with the perfect religious freedom guaranteed by the concession of the Proprietors. Before setting out for their new home, the emigrants from Branford held a public meeting (Oct. 30, 1668) at which they adopted two fundamental agreements touching their new design: 1st, that no one should be admitted freeman or burgess of their new settlement, who was not a member of one or the other Congregational churches, nor

* Gordon, p. 38. † Whitehead MS. 2. chap.

be eligible to any office, nor have a vote; but they might enjoy all other civil liberties and privileges subject to such laws as now are or *hereafter may be* in force. 2d, that provision be made for maintaining in its purity the religion professed in the Congregational Churches.*

Various grants to different individuals continued to be made from time to time by the Proprietors, but in every instance the Indian title was also purchased. As for instance, "all the meadows lying south of a line drawn from the Hackensack to the Passaic, seven miles north from their intersection (comprising 5,308 acres of upland and 10,000 of meadow,) were granted to Capt. William Sandford, for £20 per annum forever, in lieu of the quit rent of a half penny per acre." But he also paid the Indians in guns, powder, breeches, and, alas! ankers of brandy, for their right in the soil. It is said of this Capt. Sandford, that "he was not willing to accept of any office in the Commonwealth," a reluctance which in our day and generation seems almost incredible.†

* NEWARK was settled after Elizabethtown, and to the answer to the famous bill in Chancery is annexed the affidavit of an old man named Joseph Woodruff relating the manner in which he had heard Gov. Treat, of Connecticut, describe the settlement of the line between the two towns.

The line was settled in so solemn and loving a manner that he (Gov. Treat) thought it ought never to be removed, for that he himself being with them at that time prayed with them on Dividend Hill (so called) that there might be a good agreement between them, and that the line was to run North-west from that hill. The Governor said, after the agreement Mr. John Ogden being one of the first purchasers prayed among the people and returned thanks for their loving agreement.

"It is gratifying," says our MS. history "in these days of scoffing and of change to know that the hope of these worthy men has been realized. Dividend Hill is now as then the recognized boundary between Newark and Elizabethtown, and the passer from one to the other as he crosses the stream known as Bound Creek from the lines following it to the bay, may see near its head the scene of this solemn and loving proceeding—the Hill sanctified by prayer."

Perhaps no more appropriate place than this may offer to express the hope that the publication of this MS. history of East Jersey from its settlement to the surrender of the government to the King in 1702, by one of our members—and as I am authorised in saying placed by him at the service of the Society, may at an early day signalize our active existence. It is most carefully and elaborately prepared by a native of the State, who at his own expense caused to be transcribed as an appendix to his work, the very rare little book of Scott of Pittlockie published in 1685.

† Concerning a portion of the early settlers of Bergen while still under the Dutch authority or just after the surrender of New York to the English, there exists a tradition somewhat to this effect: That among the soldiers of Stuyvesant who were transplanted to Bergen, were some of Moorish race, whose peculiar complexion, physiognomy and characteristics are, it is alleged, yet to be traced in their descendants to this day—the swarthy complexion, the sharp, dark eye, and curling black hair—so opposite to the ruddy color, the light eyes and fair hair of the Hollander.

To account for the presence of men of Moorish race in the Dutch armies, it is

The settlements in East Jersey increased rapidly. The easy terms upon which lands were acquired, the salubrity of the climate and fertility of the soil, attracted adventurers; and it is recorded by an old historian* that it was thought by some, worthy of the name of Paradise, *because*, in addition to its natural advantages, it had no lawyers, no physicians and no parsons.†

In West Jersey Andross sought to assert the extremest authority of collecting taxes from the people, as though it were a part of the province of New York, and there is not on record at that period—hardly at any subsequent period—a more spirited and forcible argument in favor of the great principle that no taxes can be justly imposed

pretended that after the expulsion of the Moors from Spain, a portion of those who had been soldiers, were embodied into or annexed to the Spanish regiments; that some of these were stationed in the Spanish Netherlands, keeping up their own race; and that finally when those countries threw off the yoke of Spain and conquered their own independence, the descendants of these Moors passed to the service of Holland, and thus formed part of the force under the command of Stuyvesant in this New World.

Altogether the tradition is curious, and though surrounded with many difficulties and so far as I have been able to investigate, not resting on any historical authority, is perhaps not unworthy of the investigation of the Society.

Two things are certain. That there is such a tradition, and that there is between some of the old families of Bergen, all equally Dutch in name and tongue, a marked difference in complexion and physiognomy.

* MS. quoting Oldmixon's Bri. Empire, I. 144.

† George Scott, of Pittlochie, who in 1685 published a volume entitled "the Model of the Government of the Province of East New Jersey in America," thus sensibly discourses concerning the province: "We will not encourage any to go there in the expectation of *gold and silver mines*; yea, though there were such in the country, we should not be curious nor industrious to seek them out, being, besides the toyl and labour, but occasions for envy and emulation. Nor yet is there *sugar*, nor *indigo*, nor *cotton*, nor any store of *tobacco*, tho' it grows there very well. But we consider it not our interest to employ much ground in it. The Riches of this country consist of that which is most substantial and necessary for the use of man, *to wit*, plenty of corn and cattle. They have besides vines and fruits in abundance, as has been before said, so that those who dwell here need not be obliged to any other plantation *for any thing necessary for life*, and all other plantations are beholden to them for necessaries, without which their other curiosities would little avail them. This, with the province of New York, being the granary or store-house of the West Indies, without which Barbadoes and the Leeward Islands could not subsist; for New England is forced to come there every year for corn. This, with the advantige of fishery being considered, will easily induce sober and industrious people to prefer a plantation here to most other places."

Many curious letters, from persons settled in New Jersey, particularly in and around Amboy, are embodied in Scott's book; all tending to explain away objections and invite settlers from Scotland. One of these, of 9th March, 1685, from James Johnson to his "Kind Commorad," Alex. Henderson, in Edinburgh, written from his plantation at the "blew hills in East Jersey," says, with an odd approximation, "there is nothing here to discourage us; Quakers are not numerous; and wolves are so far from troubling men, that if a man shall lay a glove upon a carcass, or their prey, they will yell, but not come nigh it."

without the consent of those who are to pay, than was exhibited in the memorial of the New Jersey colonists, addressed to the British Crown, against the pretensions of Andross. It is the more remarkable as having been prepared by Wm. Penn, Hutchinson, and other Quakers.*

Encouraged by the success of their brethren in West Jersey, other Quakers purchased East Jersey, which by the demise of Carteret and the necessity of selling his property, was up for a purchaser, and *Robert Barclay* of Ure, the famous Quaker author and apologist, was appointed first Governor of East Jersey; and under the steady rule of these disciples of Peace, both the Jerseys looked for tranquil and prosperous days. But when James II. ascended the throne,† unmindful of his engagements as Duke of York, his constant effort was to annul the charters of the American colonies, and to convert them all into Royal governments. Wearied at once with struggles at home against the claim to Royal prerogative, and in the Jerseys with the searching and critical spirit of the colonists, the propietors at length surrendered their rights of government, retaining their rights of property in New Jersey. The bargain, however, was not consummated 'till the next reign,‡ and then Queen Anne united the two Jerseys into one, and of that and of New-York constituted her kinsman, Ed. Hyde, Lord Cornbury, grandson of Clarendon, Governor; and the commissions and instructions which this first Royal Governor received, formed the constitution of the province till it became an independent State. In most of the essentials of freedom, it fell far short of the more liberal provisions of the Concessions of the Proprietors. Liberty of conscience was refused to papists, and the popular House was subjected to the control of the Governor, both by an unqualified veto and an unlimited right to adjourn the Legislature at pleasure.

Owing to these causes, among others, New Jersey did not continue to advance as rapidly in population as at first, but still by emigration and by natural increase its population went on.§

It is quite impossible, within the limits of such a discourse, to give even a sketch of the successive Royal Governors, or of the gradual development of the spirit which ultimately led to the independence of all the colonies. Lord Cornbury was a weak and profligate nobleman, who, after a troubled and discreditable career, was displaced by the Queen, and being no longer in office, was thrown by his creditors in New-York into prison—from which he was only released by succeeding, on the death of his father, to the peerage, and thus stepping

* 1630: Gordon, p. 40–2. † 15 Feb. 1685. ‡ 1702. § Gordon, p. 57.

from a colonial jail to a hereditary seat in the British House of Lords.* Among the Governors who succeeded him, of one only, Brigadier *Hunter*, has the memory been preserved by popular affection; but he seems, during his administration of the colonies, for nine years, from 1710 to 1719, to have conciliated the regard of the governed with a faithful discharge of his duty to his sovereign. The Assembly of New Jersey presented him an address on his departure, in which his administration is characterized as "a continued series of justice and moderation"; and in the same tone the New York Assembly said to him, "You have governed well and wisely, like a prudent magistrate, like an affectionate parent."†

For several years New Jersey, as a smaller State, had suffered inconvenience, if not loss, by being under the same government with New York. The residence and interests of the officers of government were more in New York than in New Jersey, and the Assembly of the State had in consequence petitioned the Home government for a separation of the colonies intotwo distinct governments. In 1738 this was granted to the intercession of Mr. Lewis Morris, a native of New Jersey, who returned with a commission to himself as first Governor of the separate colony. He was most cordially received by the Legislature, a grant of £500 to defray his expenses while abroad, was immediately voted, and his salary was fixed at £1,000 per annum. But this good understanding was of short duration. Mr. Morris, who had been very much of a patriot when in opposition to Royal Governors, become a Royal Governor himself, was overbearing and exacting in an extraordinary degree, and the whole of his short subsequent career was one of discord with the Legislature. He died in 1746, and the widow of him whose accession to the government had been hailed as a blessing, applied in vain to the Assembly for the payment of arrears of her husband's salary.‡

The period following the rule of Governor Morris, was one in which both foreign war and domestic disturbances agitated New Jersey. In 1744 open war broke out between England and France, in which of course the colonists were involved—and it is a somewhat remarkable fact, considering how large a portion of the more recent

* 1709. † Gordon, 91.

‡ Here is another topic of investigation for the Society; the first native Governor, hailed as a benefactor and a friend at his accession, after a brief career descending to an unhonored grave, amid the maledictions of the people whose idol he had been.

There must, in such a life and such a fate, be much to instruct and to warn; and there are so many descendants of his name, that it seems hardly doubtful that with diligent application, papers and memorials of that period may be rescued from destruction, that would throw light upon the motives and character of Governor Morris.

settlers were Quakers, that a most ready alacrity to supply its portion of troops and money to the common efforts of the colonies, were manifested.

For the successful attack on and conquest of Cape Breton and its capital, Louisburg—organized and accomplished by "a trader on the Piscataqua," as Gordon calls him, Mr. Pepperel, in 1745—this State voted £2000 for supplies; and when in the next year the conquest of Canada was determined on, the Legislature ordered a levy of 500 men, and so great was the zeal of the colonists that in less than two months 660 offered for enlistment; five companies were formed and put under the command of Col. Peter Schuyler, (erroneously called Philip, by Gordon,) who proceeded with his command to Albany, but owing to the failure of the home government to supply forces from Europe, the expedition was abandoned; there was such tardiness in providing for the pay of this regiment that in 1747 it mutinied, and the discontent was only appeased by the liberality of their Colonel, who out of his own means, advanced several thousand pounds for them. The peace of Aix la Chapelle in 1748, put an end to hostilities in Europe and America, and to the great discontent of the colonists, surrendered, almost without an equivalent, the conquests made solely by their arms and means of Cape Breton and Louisburg.*

In 1745 the County of Essex, and some adjoining parts of Middlesex, Morris, and Somerset, became the scene of an *association*† not unlike in principle or practice, but with more show of right and title, the Anti-Rent Associations which are now organized and injuriously efficient in the neighboring State of New York. Reference has heretofore been made to the famous Elizabethtown bill in chancery and to the circumstances which gave rise to the controversy about land titles, of which that forms one of the memorials. For many years the contest between the grantees of Carteret and of the Elizabethtown claimants under the Indian title confirmed by Governor Nicholl, had slept; but about this time‡ it was revived, and some suits for the recovery of quit rent, and actions for ejectment having been instituted, the claimants under the Indian title associated themselves for defence, set at defiance the laws, and in the month of September 1745, broke open the jail of Essex County and liberated a person imprisoned at the suit of the proprietors, and according to Gordon, "for several years thereafter, all persons confined for like cause, or on charge of high treason and rebellion for resisting the laws, were released at the will of the insurgents; so that, in this respect, the arm of govern-

*Gordon, p. 107. †Anti-Rent Association. Gordon, p. 109. ‡1745.

ment was wholly paralyzed. Persons who had long held under the proprietaries were forcibly ejected; others were compelled to take leases from landlords whom they were not disposed to acknowledge, whilst those who had the courage to stand out, were threatened with, and in many instances received, personal violence."*

The proprietors appealed for protection to the Governor and Council, and they prepared and sent to the Assembly a bill making it felony without the benefit of clergy, for a tumultuous assemblage of twelve or more persons, not to disperse on the due requisition of the civil authority. The Assembly here again sympathized with the rioters, and refused to legislate against them. Appeals and representations were made to the King, each party seeking to criminate the other, and for a long series of years, the State was disturbed by the lawlessness of these anti-rent associations.†

The wars of the mother country soon again involved the colonies, and none more ardently than New Jersey in its military adventures. The peace of *Aix la Chapelle* was but a hollow truce, and especially in America was it early disregarded. The French, in two years after its signature, entered upon active and systematic measures,‡ to alienate the Indians from the British interest, and to extend their own possessions and influence in the valley of the Mississippi, aiming at a connected chain of posts from the St. Lawrence to the Mississippi.

In 1754 open hostilities commenced in America; though not till two years afterwards, in 1756, was war avowedly declared in Europe. New Jersey was again in the field with her regiment under its old Colonel, Schuyler, and was liberal in her supplies of money. The defeat of Braddock in July 1755, had let loose the Indians upon the frontier, and a remorseless war was carried on by them.§ Even the Delawares, heretofore ever faithful and friendly, were swept away in the general Indian defection; and being eagerly employed by the French, they laid waste whole regions in Pennsylvania and on the northern borders of New Jersey, inhabited by those who had loaded them with benefits. The people of the country fled at the approach of the savages, and abandoned every thing to their fury. To crush this barbarian inroad, Col. Schuyler with his regiment then lying idle at Oswego, on the frontier of New York, was recalled and employed to guard our own. This duty they accomplished, and when again ordered to the north in the spring of 1756, their place was supplied by a force raised for the purpose, of 250 men. In the ensuing campaign Schuyler and one half of his regiment, forming part of the

* Gordon, p. 109. † Ibid. ‡ 1750. § Gordon, p. 122.

garrison of Oswego, were made prisoners, when that post was captured by Montcalm,* and sent into Canada. He was discharged on parole, not to serve again for eighteen months;† but New Jersey immediately filled up the regiment to its full compliment with new recruits, and placed it under the command of Col. Parker. It however soon shared the fate of its predecessors, for it too fell into the hands of the French—being part of the command of Col. Monroe, who with a force of 3000 men, held Fort William Henry, on the southern shore of Lake George—but was compelled, after six days' investment, to surrender to Montcalm, who was at the head of 9000 regulars, with a large number of Canadians and Indians. The barbarities committed by the latter, remain a reproach to the otherwise gallant Frenchman whose name is associated in glory with that of his subsequent conqueror on the plains of Abraham, Wolfe. The victor and the vanquished are both immortalized by death joyfully accepted in the discharge of their duty.

When the news of the investment of Fort William Henry reached New Jersey, 1000 volunteers marched to the rescue of the place. Too late to save it, their presence however, and that of other troops, served to restrain the victorious Montcalm. The Jersey regiment was soon after released on parole, not to serve during the war; and being useless, was disbanded by the Assembly. Of the gallant officer who, during this stormy period, commanded the New Jersey regiment, Col. Peter Schuyler, a brief notice cannot be otherwise than acceptable; nor, I may hope, without effect in leading to a more detailed biography of a man distinguished alike by his martial prowess and his rare disinterestedness in public station.

Sprung from a long line of honored ancestors of the sturdy Dutch race, whose characteristics have already been referred to—of whom the first came to America about 1632, with the Patroon Van Rensselaer, the only one of the Patroons to whom lands were granted, who took possession of them in person—he seems to have inherited all the high qualities of his race.

Philip Peter Schuyler, the founder of the family on this continent, early settled himself on the banks of the Passaic, whence his son Peter, born in 1657, removed to Albany, and became the first mayor of that city. He was the grandfather of General Philip Schuyler of revolutionary renown.

Another son, Arent, remained in New Jersey, intermarried with a

* Capture of Jersey regiment 1756.
† Gordon, pp. 126, 7, 8.

daughter of the family of *Frelinghuysen*,* and from that stock descended the Peter Schuyler to whose career we are now referring.

Possessed of wealth, and enjoying ease and consideration, the war which broke out in 1744–5, at once called Col. Schuyler to the service of his country. He marched to Albany, and was for two years and more with his regiment on the frontier of New York. Inactive, because of the ill-concerted measures of the campaign, want of employment and want of pay drove the Jersey regiment in 1747 into mutiny. This was subdued by their Colonel; who then from his own private means advanced several thousand pounds to pay his brother soldiers.

On the return of peace in 1748, he relinquished his command, and was again a private citizen, residing partly in the city of New York and partly on the Passaic. But when the war of 1756 broke out, New Jersey again claimed his services, again entrusted her fighting men to his lead and command. On the 9th July 1758, Braddock's fatal field was fought. Col. Schuyler, with his regiment, was at that time on his march for the northern frontier of New York, and reached Oswego on the 20th, and formed part of the garrison on that exposed post.

Gen. Shirley, the commander-in-chief of all the English forces in America, having summoned a Congress of the Governors of the different colonies, and other notables, to assemble at New York in December 1755, to consult about the state of public affairs, Col. Schuyler attended as a member, and took part in the deliberations.

Returning thence to his regiment still at Oswego, he remained there 'till the place was attacked and ultimately compelled to surrender to the superior force of the French general, Montcalm. Col. Mercer, the chief in command in the fort, being killed by a cannon ball, Col. Schuyler succeeded him as commander, but was obliged to surrender on 14th August, 1756.

The officers and soldiers of the garrison were sent prisoners to Quebec, but Col. Schuyler was soon released on parole, with the condition, that if no suitable exchange should be made for him, he would, on being summoned, return to captivity. His welcome home was enthusiastic. It is recorded that "on account of worthy Colonel Peter Schuyler's happy return to New York on 21st November, several houses were illuminated, and on the 27th the Colonel arrived at home in Peterborough, New Jersey."

* This, on further investigation, proved to be an error, arising from some similarity of name—the lady was a *Duykhuisen*, not a *Frelinghuysen*.

The war was still in progress, but our brave soldier was on parole, and his men were yet prisoners. As the condition of affairs became more menacing, for the French early in 1758, and at the moment when Sir Wm. Johnson, with his Indians, was about being let loose upon Canada, the French commander, as it is written in the language of that day, "sent to demand the brave old Peter Schuyler of New Jersey, as no person had been exchanged for him." The old soldier, true as brave, hesitated not a moment; he had passed his word, and like Regulus of old, a glorious exile,

> "Dimovit obstantes propinquos,
> Et populum reditus morantem,"

he thrust aside his opposing neighbors, and the people who would delay his return, and went back to captivity. Great efforts were made for his release both by the colonial government and the home government.

The following extract of a letter from the great Pitt to General Abercrombie, dated Whitehall, June 10, 1758, shows how deep was the interest taken for the gallant veteran:

"The King, who has a true sense of the active zeal which Colonel Schuyler has so often showed for his service, saw with concern, the disagreeable situation of that gentleman, from the difficulties that have arisen with regard to his being exchanged, and though His Majesty will readily agree to any measures that shall be proper and practicable, to obtain the release of so good a subject, yet it is thought that no steps can be taken here for that purpose, till it is known what answer Mons. Vaudreuil shall have returned to the proposal you had made to him; and in case that answer should, as Col. Schuyler apprehends, prove to be negative, you may assure him that no time will be lost in endeavoring to effect in Europe, an exchange for him.

"With regard to the memorial Col. Schuyler had given you, desiring the payment of the sum of £211 8*s.* 7*d.* New York currency, which he had advanced to supply the necessities of several prisoners in Canada, I am to signify to you the King's pleasure, that you do direct the said sum to be issued to Mr. Schuyler, and charge the same to the account of contingencies for the service in America."

Fortunately the capture of Fort Frontenac in August, 1758, by the British force under Col. Bradstreet, furnished an officer of sufficient rank to be exchanged against Col. Schuyler, and Gen. Abercrombie, then commanding in chief the British forces, wrote to the Colonel advising him that he should take immediate steps to induce M. de Vaudreuil, the French Governor, to carry out the stipulation of the

capitulation of Fort Frontenac for an exchange of prisoners; but that if, from any cause whatever, difficulty should supervene as to the general exchange, Colonel Schuyler must ask to be released, in order to convey to him (General Abercrombie,) the reasons assigned for the delay. "I flatter myself," says the General, "that M. de Vaudreuil, in a request so just and reasonable, will give me cause to rejoice that I have had it in my power to convince him that my professions of humanity and Christian kindness are sincere, and that so long as I am not forced to act otherwise, by a different course of conduct towards those whom the fortune of war may throw into his hands, I will faithfully and exactly carry out these professions; and to the end that he may not allege ignorance of these, my intentions, I leave this letter open for his perusal."

The appeal was successful; and Colonel Schuyler being commissioned by Abercrombie to negotiate the exchange of prisoners, had the happiness of soon turning his face homeward, and at liberty, with all his fellow soldiers.

Among the papers obtained by Mr. Brodhead from the French archives, is a copy of the letter, above quoted from Abercrombie, and of the power to Schuyler to treat for prisoners, and what perhaps is not least interesting, a role of the soldiers, with the women and children who had shared their captivity, released to Colonel Schuyler.

The French translation has made sad work with some of the names, but it is nevertheless a document of interest to Jerseymen of this day, many of whom will probably find in this list the names of their forefathers. I hold these papers in my hand, and shall deposit them — my first and feeble offering — in the archives of the Society.

On the 17th November, 1755, Colonel Schuyler, Doctor Stokes, Captain Martin and Captain Putnam, all belonging to his regiment, reached Albany, on their way home; and it was only then, from those who had long been prisoners in a foreign land and amid a stranger race and language, that it became known how disinterestedly, how magnificently, Colonel Schuyler, from his own means, had ministered to the necessities of his fellow prisoners. Thousands of dollars were spent by him to procure for them clothing and other means of comfort, and in return they idolized their commander. It is to be added, in reference to the mutiny of the Jersey regiment in 1747, and the course pursued by Colonel Schuyler in paying the arrears from his own funds, that Governor Clinton, then commanding in New York, expressed great dissatisfaction with Colonel Schuyler, and indeed

forbade him to pay his own regiment, because the example would be injurious to other regiments which could not thus be satisfied.

A long and angry complaint was made by Governor Clinton to the Duke of Newcastle at home, and to the Governor and Legislature of New Jersey. In the letter to the Duke, of which the Brodhead papers also furnish a copy, which has been transcribed for me, the Governor says the President and Council of New Jersey approved his reasons, and ordered Colonel Schuyler to conform to all orders he should receive from him; but Colonel Schuyler took his own course, and paid off his men, for which disobedience Governor Clinton expressed the hope that he might be made to suffer.

The fact, however, that, when in 1754 the war was renewed, the veteran Colonel was again placed in command of the Jersey troops, and the letters which we have quoted both from General Abercombie and the great William Pitt, seem conclusive that, whatever might be the opinion of Governor Clinton, his own State and the government of the mother country sustained him. Having lived to see the French power swept from this continent, and the flag under which he had so long fought, every where triumphant, Colonel Schuyler sank to rest at his residence on the Passaic, near Newark, on the 17th November, 1762, leaving a name and the memory of services which New Jersey will not willingly let die.

The contest was continued somewhat longer on the part of the Indians, but in 1764 an entire pacification being effected, the country was left free to pursue its peaceful prosperity.

The campaigns of 1758 and 1759, directed and inspired by the genius of Pitt, put an end to the French power in America. New Jersey did her full share in the battle-fields that accomplished this result. Appealed to to raise—not a given quota of men dictated by the mother country—but such a force as such a colony might feel able and willing to furnish, New Jersey, instead of 500 men, raised 1000. The Assembly directed barracks to be built at Burlington, Amboy, Elizabethtown, and elsewhere, and specially commented* on the constitutional method in which they had been called upon to give assistance to the common cause, being left at liberty to furnish to the Crown what their own ability and sense of the occasion should dictate. This complement of 1000 men New Jersey kept up during the war, which terminated in 1762, so far as the French were concerned; but a furious and desolating contest with the Indian tribes lasted two years longer,† in the disasters and towards the finishing of

* Gordon, p. 131.

† 1762-4.

which, New Jersey shared, contributing with her usual spirit, both men and money.*

Alarmed at the entire overthrow of the French, and dreading dependence upon the English, a wide spread coalition took place among the Shawnese and other tribes on the Ohio, to make a simultaneous attack upon all the forts and settlements on the outposts. They fell suddenly upon friendly traders, resident among them, murdered many, and plundered their property; while scalping parties desolated the frontiers of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, and even crossed the Delaware and committed massacres in New Jersey. Governor Franklin, then newly come to his charge, and who was the last of the colonial governors, called out the militia to protect the frontier, reconstructed the block houses on the Delaware, and placed the State in an attitude of defence, until Colonel Bouquet's successful inroad upon the Indians on the Ohio. Sir William Johnson was enabled to effect, in 1764, a pacification with all the border Indians.

It would transcend both our time and limits to follow out the more recent history of our State; nor can it be necessary, for men yet live among us, or are but recently dead, who were sharers in its destinies from the close of the French war to our own times. We may be said to be yet among the generations whose history is included in this period, and a general acquaintance with its incidents must be presumed of all, who have any tincture of letters.

It may be briefly summed up by saying that the very qualities displayed by the colonies in aid of the mother country in her struggles on this continent against her ancient European foe—the promptness and liberality with which both men and money were provided for the common cause—became the temptation which led an unwise minister into the design of taxing the colonies for the support of the home government. It was the fatal error, which, persisted in against all remonstrance, all entreaty, and all warning, eventually succeeded in driving into independence peoples who were yet far, very far, from aiming at such a consummation. When the Revolutionary struggle commenced, few indeed of those who were foremost in the contest, desired, or dreamed of, ultimate independence of England. They went for a reform and not a revolution, and were quite content to remain subjects, if only they could enjoy the full liberty and franchises of their fellow subjects at home; and especially they insisted upon that principle, so early embodied in the charter

* Gordon, pp. 133, 4.

of New Jersey, that no taxes should be raised except by the free consent and vote of the people, who paid them, or of their representatives.

But the infatuation of the British Councils drove into revolution hearts as loyal and true to the Empire as any within the sea-girt isle; and when thus enforced, they were as earnest, persevering and bold, in vindicating their new nationality, as they ever had been in defending that which before they owned and loved.

In the fierce struggle of the Revolution New Jersey was the battle field. "The main American army, except for a period of nine months, between September, 1777, and June, 1778, when the British occupied Philadelphia, and for the two months in the autumn of 1781, when the expedition was on foot against Cornwallis in Virginia, was, during the whole war, within, or on the confines of the State."* How heartily this army was sustained, how faithfully the patriotism of the people of New Jersey resisted the blandishments and the bribes of British Commissioners, how readily and how bravely her militia poured forth to battle with the foe, how patiently all classes submitted to the privations of a war which bore with such disproportioned severity upon them, History has already commemorated, and national gratitude will not suffer to be forgotten.

How loyally, when the struggle was over and Independence was established, the same people lent their aid to remodel the constitution and form of government, so that while imparting unity of councils and of effort, equality of burdens and equality of rights under a Federal Head supreme for certain specific objects, it should preserve and sustain within its territorial limits, the municipal and political power and jurisdiction of each State—is in like manner recorded.

But while the general facts are familiar, and the great result accomplished is held in lively remembrance, many of the details which give to history the interest of romance, and which in a higher sense are precious for the elucidation of individual virtues, efforts and sufferings, as well as for the encouragement of like valor, labor and fortitude in times to come, are unchronicled and sinking into oblivion.

Be it ours to rescue while yet we may, these perishing memorials of such deeds—to trace them in their obscure or forgotten repositories—to collect, embody, and preserve them.

Delay, it cannot be doubted, has already put much of interest be-

* Gordon, p. 320.

yond our reach. Indifference may occasion yet greater losses—for what a warning on that head is afforded by that most melancholy fact ascertained by the accomplished Historical Agent of New York, Mr. Brodhead, that even as late as 1821 "all the books, documents and papers belonging to the old Dutch West India Company, of a date prior to 1700, and relating, among other things, to their early voyages to and settlements in this country, were, by order of the government, sold at auction. Eighty thousand pounds' weight of these precious MSS. were sold by the pound as so much waste paper!"

Who, moreover, is there who does not know, or who has not heard, of *some* collection of old family papers, neglected, unvalued, or at least uncared for, which, with such an organized and recognized public Depository as this Society will present, might be secured and arranged? and even with all diligence, and after gleaning all accessible stores, chance may furnish new stores; for we read in a late London periodical that, even of the great Marlborough—about whom and whose exploits so much has been written—the most authentic and reliable sources of information have only within a short time been discovered, by the casual examination of certain boxes which for long years had lain neglected and unopened; but which, on inspection, were found to contain the whole of the great Duke's correspondence and despatches during the eventful period of the war of the Succession, from 1702 to 1712. These are now, for the first time, to be given to the world in a connected sequence.

We have no Blenheims, no Strathfieldsayes, no Peerages, no Pensions, with which to commemorate and reward meritorious services to the country. The more imperative, therefore, is it that we should render familiar as household words, and keep green and fresh in the memory of the people, the names and deeds of those who have truly served them. The most touching eulogy ever pronounced on an absolute King, is that line of the French poet on Henri IV.

> *"Seul Roi dont le pauvre ait gardé la mémoire."*
> Sole monarch whose memory is cherished by the poor.

The highest eulogy and reward of those who have been, or may be, our benefactors, must be that their memories are cherished by a nation. It is not the least responsible of our duties to take care of such memories.

A full quota of distinguished men has New-Jersey contributed to the civil, military and naval service of the nation. On the Bench of

the Supreme Court of the United States, in the Senate, in the House of Representatives, in the learned professions; on the field of fame, whether on the ocean or on the land, wherever the flag of our country has been unfurled and advanced by the valor of its sons—in all the walks of life—New Jersey has done her part well. The past is secure. With you, Gentlemen, with us all, it remains to make the future worthy of that past, by causing it to live again, by rescuing from oblivion any, the least, of its honorable details; by holding up for emulation and grateful admiration, the deeds and the names that constitute the noblest inheritance, the undying Heraldry of a free people—the deeds and names of those who have devoted life and encountered death to serve and preserve the Commonwealth.

PROSPECTUS.

It is intended to continue this publication quarterly. It will contain full reports of the proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society at their regular and special meetings: comprising a complete list of all donations received and from whom—extracts from the correspondence and the names of the members from time to time elected; with selections from such papers read before the Society, or from manuscripts presented of permanent interest, as may not be preserved for volumes published as the Society's "Collections."

Each number will contain from thirty to fifty pages, octavo, forming a volume each year of from one hundred and fifty to two hundred pages, with paper cover, title page and index: and it being the object of the Society to make the publication the means of diffusing interesting and valuable information and not a source of profit, it is intended that the quantity of matter in each number shall increase with the increase of patronage without any addition to the price.

Terms.—One dollar *per annum* in advance; and a copy will be sent gratis to any individual procuring six subscribers and forwarding the money therefor. Single numbers will be supplied at thirty-seven and a half cents each. Subscriptions will be received by any of the officers of the Society, or they can be forwarded through the post office (post paid) to either of the Secretaries, or to Mr. James Ross, at the office of the Newark Daily Advertiser.

ERRATA.

PAGE 11, Line 10, for "Pillochie" read *Pitlochie.*
" 23, " 25, " "annual" " *regular.*

☞ IN order to present the Address of Mr. King entire, this number contains additional pages, for which, allowance will have to be made in subsequent numbers.

and on motion of Mr. W. A. WHITEHEAD the following preamble and resolution were adopted:

The Society having received from James G. King, Esq. copies of many interesting letters and papers formerly in the possession of Major General William Alexander, Earl of Sterling, transcribed under the direction of the Hon. William Alexander Duer, LL. D.

Resolved, That the receipt of this valuable donation be specially acknowledged, with thanks to Mr. King for his generous aid in obtaining the copies for the Society and to Mr. Duer for the facilities afforded by him for the transcription of the papers.

Reports from Committees being in order, Dr. MURRAY, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the communication of the New York Historical Society on the subject of a new national appellation, made a report as follows:

REPORT ON A NATIONAL NAME.

The Committee to whom was referred the Report of a Committee of the NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY *on a National Name, beg leave to present the following Report:*

The report, and the proposition with which it concludes, having been rejected by a very large majority of the New York Society, it would be sufficient were your Committee only to state the fact. But the importance of the movement, in itself considered, seems to demand a few remarks.

1. Your Committee cannot see any urgent reason for any change in the name of our common country. Whilst "the United States of America" is not as distinctive as it might be, yet we have to learn that any one of our citizens in foreign travel has ever found any difficulty in defining his country. When he states in France, Italy, Germany, England, or Prussia that he is an American, it is at once understood that his home is the United States. If a traveller is from Mexico, he is a Mexican—if from Canada, a Canadian—if from Peru, a Peruvian—if from Brazil, a Brazilian—and hitherto if from Texas a Texian. Because the great power of this continent, the world concedes to us the right, which we should not yield, of calling ourselves Americans. We take the continental name—others the name of the states, republics, or kingdoms to which they belong.

2. As to the need of an adjective for the purposes of poetry, we have a name sufficiently adapted to the object of the Muses. What in a poetic point of view is the superiority of Allegania to America? Sound them together and in what is England, France, Germany,

Denmark, Holland, Belgium more poetic than America? The poet that cannot manage to use America in his rhymes should hang his harp on the willows. He is not worth being accommodated with Allegania.

3. Where upon earth is the country which has received its name from its mountains? There are mountains on the earth quite as high as ours: Are there any countries called Andea from the Andes—Pyrenea from the Pyrenees—Alpea from the Alps—Carpathia from the Carpathian? And why should our mountains be made to bring forth what none others ever have?

4. Our name has become associated with all that is dear and revered in our history. It was as "the United States of America" that we achieved our independence—it was under this name we took our place among the nations of the earth—it is under this name we are known in all the courts of the world—in all the annals of diplomacy—and among all civilized and barbarous nations. There is such a thing as connecting with even quite an unpoetic name, so much that is truly poetic, heroic and historic, as to make it a sin next to sacrilege to erase it from the annals of the world. We should count him no very worthy or learned member of our Historical Society who would be for dropping the name of a venerated ancestry, because it was not sufficiently euphonic.

5. Has a country been ever known to change the name under which it achieved for itself renown, for the purpose of obtaining a more distinctive and significant one—one that would make a better adjective? Poland is now no more on the world's map—the allied powers blotted it from existence that its name might no longer wake up ancient and noble associations. Are there none such connected with our name? If our name is to be blotted out let us wait for some tyrant to do it for the purpose of putting to sleep the glorious associations which it kindles in every bosom.

6. The object of Historical Societies is not to change the names of States or Empires, but to aid in the writing, and in the preservation of all that pertains to, their true history.

With these remarks your committee recommend that the document referred to them be laid on the table, and preserved in the archives of the Society.

N. Murray,
Charles King,
J. P. Bradley,
} *Committee.*

September 4, 1845.

The report was accepted, and on motion of R. S. Field, Esq., it was

Resolved, That the report be printed in the official account of the proceedings of this meeting, and that a copy be transmitted to the New York Historical Society.

Hon. Wm. A. Duer, Chairman of the Committee on Publications, made a verbal report, explanatory of the delay which had attended the publication of the History of East Jersey and the Address which had been referred to the Committee.

On motion of Bishop Doane,

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be offered to the Rev. Dr. Miller for the wise and excellent discourse delivered by him this day: and that he be respectfully requested to furnish a copy of it for publication, under the direction of the Society.

On motion of Mr. W. A. Whitehead,

Resolved, That all *statistical matter* which may be received by the Society, be referred to a Standing Committee of five members, to be by them collated and arranged, and reported on to the Society from time to time: and that the said Committee be authorised in the name and on behalf of the Society to apply to any public functionaries, or public bodies, for any additional information desired, on subjects respecting which they may deem it advisable to institute enquiries.

The President appointed as said Committee Messrs. W. A. Whitehead of Newark, William P. Robeson of Belvidere, William Paterson of Perth Amboy, Stacy G. Potts of Trenton, and Maurice Beasley, M. D., of Cape May.

Dr. Murray offered the following amendment to the Constitution, which in accordance with the 9th article, was laid on the table to be acted on at the next meeting, and ordered to be entered in the minutes—

An amendment of the Constitution to be inserted between articles I. and II.—"The Library and Deposites of the Society shall be located at Newark."

On motion of Dr. J. S. Condit,

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to obtain for the archives of the Society, a register of all the names and dates inscribed upon the monuments or headstones in the old cemeteries, at Newark, of those whose deaths occurred prior to the year 1800; giving entire such inscriptions as they may deem it advisable to preserve:—and that members residing in other of the old towns in the State be

requested to delegate one or more of their members to perform similar services for the Society in their respective precincts.

The President named as said committee Messrs. J. S. Condit, M.D., Archer Gifford, A. C. M. Pennington, and David A. Hays.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. MURRAY,

Resolved, That the Standing Committee on Publications consist of seven instead of five members, and that three be a quorum for the transaction of business.

Two additional nominations having been made, the Committee is now composed as follows: Messrs. W. A. Duer, E. F. Cooly, N. Murray, C. King, J. S. Condit, W. A. Whitehead and Wm. B. Kinney.

The Corresponding Secretary stated that since the last meeting of the Society, an opportunity had been politely afforded him of an examination, to some extent, of the valuable collection of papers in the possession of the Rutherfurd family, to which reference was made by several gentlemen at that meeting, and his examination had confirmed in every particular the statements then made as to their highly interesting character. He made some remarks in relation to them and presented a list of some of the most important original documents in the collection, comprising many of the early grants and deeds under which all property in the State is now held, and other papers connected with the earliest period of our history. Among them he found the original letter from Samuel Groome—printed in Scot's Model of the Government of East Jersey, and also in Smith's History of the Province. It was an interesting fact, that this letter written 162 years ago (August 1683) had performed its journey to Scotland and enlightened the proprietaries there respecting the "braveries of the land" as Groome expressed himself—been widely circulated, and exercised an important influence in inducing emigration to East Jersey;—had then been brought back to the province, and, after slumbering for some hundred years among a mass of other papers, most of the time unrecognized and unnoticed, should now be within reach of the antiquary in a good state of preservation.

As illustrative of one class of the papers, the Secretary read copies of three letters from Rev. Samuel Davies, D.D., to Mr. Livingston of New York—written in 1759–60, soon after his entering upon his duties as President of Nassau Hall; and laid on the table representations of three seals used in the Province of East Jersey previous to the surrender of the government to the crown—the only impression of one of them, known to exist, being appended to one of the docu-

ments in this collection. The Secretary congratulated the members, and all who took an interest in our history, that, amid all "the changes and chances" which had transpired in the Province and State of New Jersey, these papers had been in the possession of those who duly valued them and had taken every needful precaution to ensure their preservation.

The Society having been informed that the Rev. Dr. DAVIDSON, of New Brunswick, was present, and had in his possession a letter book of Gov. Lewis Morris, first Governor of New Jersey after its separation from New York, and also an original memoir of his life, which he had prepared, Dr. D. was requested to read the paper before the Society at the next meeting.

Pending a motion to adjourn, CHIEF JUSTICE HORNBLOWER rose and returned his thanks to the members for the honor conferred in selecting him to be the first President of the Society. He regretted that he had been prevented from attending the previous meeting, and trusted that the earnest desire he felt for the success of the Society, would be responded to by the members generally, and a liberal support be afforded him in the execution of his duties as presiding officer.

The Society then adjourned, to meet at New Brunswick on the first Thursday of November, at 12 M.

SELECTIONS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS

Laid before the Society, September 4, 1845.

FROM MR. S. ALOFSEN.

JERSEY CITY, *September* 2, 1845.

SIR,

I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy and translation of the Dutch Journal of Captain John Schuyler on his expedition to Canada and Fort La Prairie, (from 13th to 30th August 1690,) which I beg leave to offer to the Historical Society of New Jersey for its acceptation.

On finding this document it did not at first strike me as being of more than ordinary antiquarian interest, but on reading the history of that eventful period I became convinced of its greater value, and am of opinion, from the very remarkable coincidence of dates, numbers and facts, that this expedition is the identical one mentioned by

Lt. Governor Leisler, in his letter of 30th September, 1690, to the government of Connecticut, (on file at Hartford) as the successful and only detachment sent forward by General Winthrop. [See Dunlap's Hist. of N. Y. vol. I. p. 194.] "He says (Leisler) the success of this detachment (of 30 whites and 150 Iroquois, in destroying the enemy's cattle, taking or killing 28 of the French, burning dwelling-houses and barns,) proved that with only 150 more men, they could have taken Montreal."

That Governor Leisler does not mention the name of the commander, is not surprising if we take into consideration the relative political opinions and position of himself and Peter Schuyler, Mayor of Albany, but it appears to me that by allowing a young and much beloved brother to recruit a war party and voluntarily to embark on a very perilous expedition, and at a time when all others returned and abandoned the unpromising pursuit, the motives of the latter will be placed in a light far different from what they at that time were represented in by the friends of Governor Leisler. They certainly shew a pure disinterested patriotism; for the success of the Winthrop expedition to Canada would have been a great service to the country, but at the same time it would have increased the power and popularity of the man to whom he was opposed in politics, and whose acquirements were not of that high order necessary to qualify him for the responsible duties and station he in a great measure ambitiously had assumed. I am the more persuaded of the truth of my supposition from the importance General Philip Schuyler (grandson of Peter) seems to have attached to this document of his grand-uncle John—it having been endorsed by his own hands, and preserved by him with his own private papers, among which it was found by me in 1840.

Captain John Schuyler was born at Albany, April 5, 1668, and was the youngest son of Philip Pieterse Schuyler of Amsterdam, and Margaret Van Sleechtenhorst of Newkerck, and grandson of Pieter Schuyler, who about the year 1632 removed with his family from Amsterdam and established himself in the present State of New Jersey.

To enable the Society to have the copy properly authenticated you will please find herewith the original MS. (now the property of Robert Schuyler, Esq. of New York) and I would be obliged for its return whenever it shall have answered that purpose.

I have the honor to be, Sir, very respectfully, your ob't. serv't,

S. ALOFSEN.

To W. A. Whitehead, Esq., Cor. Sec. N. J. Hist. Soc., Newark.

JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN JOHN SCHUYLER, *on his expedition to Canada and fort La Prairie, during the latter part of August*, 1690.—*Translated by* S. ALOFSEN, *from the original Dutch Manuscript, at present* (1845) *in the possession of Robert Schuyler, Esq. of New York.*

Journal of Captain John Schuyler, who voluntarily embarked at Wood Creek, (Houtkill)[a] on the 13th August, 1690, with 29 christians (whites) and 120 savages, (Indians) whom he recruited at Wood Creek as volunteers under his command to go to Canada to fight the enemy. Nearly about the swamps (het verdronken land) I met Captain Sander Glen[b] on his way back to Albany, because the greatest number returned. The aforesaid Sanders had in his Company twenty-eight whites (christians) and five savages (Indians) and came from Tsinondrosie where Captain Sanders had been waiting eight days for the whole corps. From these Captain John Schuyler enlisted thirteen christians and five savages to continue with Captain Schuyler the voyage to Canada and there to fight their mutual enemy. When the rest of the Company had left us, and we had advanced nearly two hours on our voyage, we found two canoes which had been sent out to spy and which had shot an elk. After we had done eating and had supplied our canoes we proceeded on our way as far as Canaghsionie. The 15th day of August we came one german mile above *Crown Point* (*the Cruynpunt*).[c] The 16th ditto we advanced as far as Kanondoro, and resolved at that place to travel by night, and that night went onward to near the spot where *Ambrosio* (*?*) *Corlaer*[d] is drowned, and there one of our savages fell in convulsions, charmed and conjured by the devil, and said that a great battle had taken place at Quebeck (Cubeek) and that much heavy cannon must have been fired there, and that one hundred canoes with savages had come down *the river* (*the Mohawk*) from *Cadaraqui*, (*Coederogqua.*)[e] And about one hour after sunrise we went to Oghraro, where I placed the first guard and nominated Barent Wemp as officer of the guard. The 17th ditto in the evening we proceeded to Ogharonde. A Tsenondoga savage of our Company died there, of sickness, when the Oneida (Onnide) savages gave a wampum belt (bandt sewandt) for the atonement of the dead. That day Capt. Schuyler with his subaltern officers and the Chief of the savages resolved where they should make their attack upon the enemy, and they found good by the majority, to fall upon fort La Prairie (Lapplarie;) whereupon the Mohawk or Maqua savages (Makwase) gave a wampum belt to the Scaticock (Schaghkoekse) savages as a token to

stand by each other faithfully, and what they do call onroghquasa In a Goera. The Oneida (Onniderse) savages did the same to the Maqua savages by some handful of wampum, (sewandt) and in this manner this resolution was decidedly agreed upon and confirmed with shaking of hands (kinsekaje ?) as well by the christians as by the savages, and, moreover, approved by the savages as to who should be their chiefs or headmen, Carristasio and Tehoesequatho, and Juriaen the ferocious. The 18th ditto set out in the evening, and about midnight we saw a light fall down from out the sky to the South, by which we all were perplexed what token this might be. The 19th ditto on account of the hard wind we laid still, because we could not proceed, and we were laying about 3 miles above the sand-bank of Chambly, (Siamble.) The 20th ditto we sent out spies along the west side of the river Chambly,[f] (Siamble) and found there a shield of a vanguard from Canada and 14 palisades to which they had bound their prisoners whom they had fetched from New England. The 21st ditto we proceeded to about one mile below the above mentioned sand bank of Chambly, when we again sent out spies, who discovered some places where French and savage spies had been keeping double night watch, and that the same had embarked for Chambly, (Siamble.) Then, after having first placed our canoes and provisions in safety, we the 22nd ditto pursued our voyage by land and travelled that day to close under La Prairie—the road being very difficult on account of the softness of the clay, through which we had to pass, so that two of our christians returned to our canoes. Coming through the clay we heard much firing of musketry, by which we were astonished what it might be. The 23rd ditto in the morning I sent spies towards the fort to see how it was; coming home said all the folks were leaving the fort of La Prairie to cut corn. Then we resolved in what manner we should hinder them from obtaining the fort again, and agreed to do so by stopping their way to the fort, but by the eagerness of the young savages such was prevented, because christians as well as savages fell on with a war cry, which displeased the officer and that they fell on without orders having been given, but they made 19 prisoners and 6 scalps, under which were 4 womenfolk. The first prisoner was examined, asking him, what the firing of yesterday at La Prairie signified? said, the Governor yesterday went away with 800 men and the people discharged their muskets at their departure because their scouts had not heard from us. Then we fell upon their cattle, we pierced and shot to death nearly 150 head of oxen and cows, and then we set fire to

all their houses and barns which we found in the fields, their hay, and every thing else which would take fire. Then we christians resolved to fall upon the fort, but could not move the savages to give their consent to help us to attack the fort; the fort fired alarms when Montreal (Monrejall) and Chambly (Siamble) answered, so that we resolved to depart with the prisoners to Albany. A savage of ours was stabbed to death, whom we burned in a barn, and we went that day 7 German miles on our way back. Then the savages killed 2 French prisoners because they could not travel on account of their wounds. A little while after this we sat down to eat and thanked the Governor of Canada[g] for his salute of heavy cannon during our meal—they fired from the morning till 2 o'clock in the afternoon from all three of the forts. That day we travelled to the river Chambly where our canoes were laying. The 24th ditto we went as far as fort Lamotte; the 25th ditto we reached the Sandpoint, where we shot two elks. The 26th ditto we came to the little stone fort, and from there sent a canoe with men to Albany to bring the news of what had happened to us. The 27th ditto we proceeded to Canaghsione and there shot nine elks. The 28th ditto we reached Wood Creek. The 29th ditto we travelled to the little mill dam (het valletje) above Saraghtoge. The 30th of August we arrived at Albany, under the command of Captain John Schuyler.

Note.—In May 1698, John Schuyler, then a Colonel and Member of the King's Council for New York, was at the head of the deputation sent by the Earl of Bellamont, Governor of New York, to the Count de Frontignac, at Montreal, with the communication of the peace of Ryswyck. S. A.

a See Dunlap's History of N. Y. vol. I, p. 266.

b Sander in Dutch is the abbreviation of Alexander. See Dunlap's History of N. Y. vol. I. p. 177.

c "Crown Point" corrupted from the Dutch Kruinpunt.—It should be "The Summit Point."

d Dunlap's Hist. N. Y. vol. I. pp. 123, 124.

e Dunlap's Hist. N. Y. vol. I. pp. 136, 381, 332, 394: vol. II. appendix W. p. lxvii. Cadaraqui or fort Frontignac, is now called Kingston.

f The river Richelieu, Sorrel or Chamblé, or Chambly.

g The Count de Frontignac.

List of Papers in the Rutherfurd Collection

Connected with the early History of the State.

Original Lease for a year, *James Duke of York* to *Lords Berkeley and Carteret* for the whole of New Jersey, June 23, 1664.

*Original Release of the same, June 24, 1664.

Original Lease for a year, *James Duke of York to Sir George Carteret* for the *northern half* of New Jersey, July 28, 1674.

*Original Release of the same, July 29, 1674.

*Original Instructions from *Sir George Carteret* for the government of his province, July 31, 1674.

*Original Quintipartite Deed between *Sir George Carteret, Wm. Penn, Nicholas Lucas, Gawen Lawrie and Edward Byllinge,* —dividing the province into East and West Jersey, differently from the grant to Sir George of July 28–29, 1674—dated July 1, 1676.

Another Original of the same instrument.

Original Release, *Elizabeth Carteret, Executrix, and the Trustees of Sir George to the Twelve Proprietors,* for all of East Jersey, Feb. 1, 1681–2.

Original Deed, *Elizabeth Carteret* to the *Twelve Proprietors,* for all arrearages of rents and profits due Sir George's estate, February 2, 1681–2.

Original Release, *James Duke of York to Sir George Carteret,* [the grandson and heir] for all East Jersey, bearing date Sept. 10, 1680, but does not appear to have been signed before 16th October, 1680.

Original Duplicate of the same instrument.

Exemplified Copy from the Canterbury archives of *Sir George Carteret's Will*: Will made 25th Dec., 1678—proved Feb. 19, 1679.

Original Agreement by the *Twelve Proprietors* that there should be no benefit of Survivorship, &c., dated June 1, 1682.

*Original Release, *James Duke of York to Byllinge, Penn, Lawrie, Lucas, John Eldridge and Edmond Warner* for West Jersey, dated August 6, 1680. The seal (imperfect) attached to this instrument in a tin box.

Original Commission *from Andros to Andrew Hamilton, John Campbell, Robert Van Quellen, John Bishop, John Inians, and Samuel Haile* to be "Justices to keep the peace in the County of Middlesex," dated New York, Aug. 25, 1688. The great provincial Royal seal attached.

ORIGINAL COMMISSION *from Wm. Dockwra in behalf of the Proprietors to John Barclay*, (and, in case of disability on his part to John Reid) as Surveyor General, April 6, 1692, with seal of Province attached in tin box; Barclay's oath of office on the back, dated Nov. 1, 1692.

ORIGINAL DEED for one half of his twelfth [or 1–24th] of East Jersey, from *Wm. Penn to Robert Barclay*, Sept. 22, 1682.

ORIGINAL RELEASE from *Penn, Lucas, Lawrie and Byllynge* to to Thomas Rudyard, for 1–9th of 9–10th of West Jersey, in lieu of £350 due Rudyard from Byllynge, May 2, 1677.

REVOCATION OF ALL LAWRIE'S POWERS by order of the Proprietaries, 1687.

ORIGINAL RELEASE from *Penn, Lucas, Lawrie and Byllynge* to Thomas Rudyard and John Ridge for 1–9th of 9–10th of West Jersey, March 2, 1677.

AN ACCOUNT OF DISBURSEMENTS by the Proprietaries to 1698.

A LIST OF PROPRIETARIES, 1686.

A do. do. 1687.

AN ORDER OF PROPRIETARIES April 29, 1686, authorizing William Dockwra to sign for them.

AN ORDER OF PROPRIETARIES about Amboy, &c., 1683.

*AN do. do. confirmatory of other previous ones, dated May 11, 1685.

ORIGINAL COMMISSION from *Lords Berkeley and Carteret to Robert Van Quellen* to be Surveyor General, with the first seal of the Province attached, [imperfect] dated Feb. 10, 1664–5.

ORDER OF THE PROPRIETARIES relative to laying out of lands, and censuring Lawrie and Rudyard, dated July 3, 1685.

ORDER OF THE PROPRIETARIES directing an examination into the affairs of the Province, dated October 21, 1685.

ORIGINAL LETTER from Samuel Groome to the Proprietaries, dated August 11, 1683.

A PACKAGE OF ORIGINAL DEEDS from, and to, the Original Proprietors, and early patents prior to 1700.

EXEMPLIFIED COPY of the Act for running and ascertaining the line between New Jersey and New York, passed by New Jersey Assembly, Feb. 18, 1747.

Those papers marked * are printed in Leaming and Spicer's New Jersey Grants and Concessions.

Three Letters from SAMUEL DAVIES, D. D. *President of Princeton College, to Mr. P. V. B. Livingston, of New York, the originals of which are in the Rutherfurd Collection.*

SIR,

About three weeks ago I arrived here, and soon entered upon my new office. A Tremour still seizes me at the Tho't of my situation; and sometimes I can hardly believe it is a reality, but only a frightful portentous Dream. Indeed since I have presided I have had the Pleasure to find myself at the Head of a peaceable manageable Society; but I know myself and human nature too well, to flatter myself with the Expectation of its uninterrupted Continuance.

I beg you would send me by the first stage 4 doz. Bottles of Claret, if cheaper than Madeira; 40 lbs. Candles; 2 neat Candlesticks and Snuffers; 1 [large] China Bowl;* 10 Gallons Molasses; 1 English Cheese; 2 doz. Bottles English Beer or Porter; 2 White Stone Dishes; with an account of the Prices.

I hope to have the Pleasure of seeing you at the Commencement; tho' that will be the terrible Day of my Mortification. As I would be glad of a compleat settlement of every thing upon my first Entrance upon my Office, I am very desirous of a full Meeting of the Trustees; especially as the Governor, I expect, will have something to communicate to them, of great Importance to the Institution.

With affectionate Compliments to the Gent. in New York, with whom I have the Honor of some Acquaintance, I am Sir,

Your obliged humble Serv't,

Nassau Hall, Aug. 18, 1759. SAMUEL DAVIES.

Mr. LIVINGSTON.

* As originally written—"1 China Bowl *of a middling size,*" the word "large" being subsequently supplied.

SIR,

Please to send me by the first Conveyance 1 Cask good Muscovado Sugar of about 200 lbs. wt.

Affairs at College go on Smooth and easy; and we seem at least to have so much Goodness as to love one another.

This is merely a Letter of Business; and I can add no more but that, with Sincere Friendship and Gratitude to you and your Family,

I am Sir, Your very humble Serv't,

Nassau Hall, Dec. 6, 1759. SAMUEL DAVIES.

Mr. LIVINGSTON.

Sir,

I thank you for your early Care in sending me a Barrel of Sugar. It is not yet arrived here; but I have desired the Stage Waggoner to enquire for it in Brunswick and am in Hopes he will find it; if not, I shall be obliged to Apply to you for more explicit Intelligence about it.

There are 5 Bachelors now prosecuting their studies in College; but none of them are intended for the Profession of Physic. And as for the Undergraduates they are not prepared to enter 'Prentices to any. Therefore please, Sir, to present my Compliments to your Friend the Doctor, and inform him, that the most promising Time to apply to College for young Gent.n for his Purpose is at the Commencement and he may frequently have an opportunity of being supplied.

You do me great Honour, Sir, in presuming such favourable Things of my Administration in my present Station. If my future Management Should be so happy as to deserve the Continuance of your Charity, I shall esteem it the greatest Blessing I can enjoy in Life. But should I disappoint my Friends and bring my own Fears upon me, I should hardly be able to survive it, but would pine away and die, like an useless or noxious Plant, blasted from Heaven. All my Encouragement proceeds from my anxious Industry night and Day, except what I derive from above.

With great Esteem and Gratitude, I am Dear Sir,
Your most humble Serv't,

Nassau Hall, Jan'y. 18, 1760. SAMUEL DAVIES.

Mr. Livingston.

DONATIONS

ANNOUNCED SEPT. 4TH, 1845.

A Course of Lectures on the Constitutional Jurisprudence of the United States, by William Alexander Duer, LL.D.
From the Author.

Collections of the Georgia Historical Society, 2 vols. 8vo.

A Lecture before the Georgia Hist. Soc. on Education, by Samuel K. Talmage, Feb. 29th, and March 4th, 1844.

The Romance of Life, a historical lecture before the Georgia Hist. Soc., by Robert M. Charlton, Jan. 1845.

A Discourse on the qualifications and duties of a historian, before the Georgia Hist. Soc., Feb. 13, 1843, by Mitchell King.

A Discourse before the Georgia Hist. Soc., Feb. 12, 1845, by A. Church, D.D.

"A High Civilization the Moral duty of Georgians," a discourse before the Georgia Hist. Soc., Feb. 12, 1844, by Rt. Rev. Stephen Elliott, Jr. *From the Society.*

MS. copy of a letter (in French) from Gen. Abercrombie to Col. Schuyler, October 1, 1758.

MS. copy of a list of prisoners delivered Col. Schuyler, (in French.)

MS. copy of the parole of honor of Capt. Woodward, of the New Jersey Regiment, Oct. 24, 1758.

MS. copy of two letters from Gov. Clinton of New York to the Duke of Newcastle, May 23d and 30th, 1747, relating to the payment of the N. J. troops by Col. Schuyler.

[From copies in the Secretary of State's Office, Albany.]

From Charles King, Esq.

Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society, 5 vols. 8vo.

Documentary History of the Destruction of the Gaspee, by Hon. Wm. R. Staples.

Address before the Rhode Island Hist. Soc., by William Gammell, Professor, &c. *From the Society.*

A Map of Texas compiled for U. S. State Department.

Proceedings of Senate in Executive Session, relating to Texas, April and May, 1844.

Report to the Bureau of Top'l Eng'rs on the Hydrographical Basin of the Upper Mississippi, by J. N. Nicollet.

From Hon. Jacob W. Miller.

Memoirs of Pennsylvania Historical Society, Vol. II. part 2, Vol. IV. part 1, Vol. III. parts 1 and 2—4 vols. 8vo.

Constitution and Circular of the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

Discourse on the Surviving Remnant of the Indian race, delivered Oct. 24, 1836, by Job R. Tyson.

Discourse on Colonial History, delivered before the Pennsylvania Hist. Soc., Feb. 21, 1842, by Job R. Tyson. *From the Society.*

Bulletin of the Pennsylvania Hist. Soc. for March, 1845, containing a reprint of Denton's "Brief Description of New York."

From Thomas Gordon, Esq.

Bill in Chancery of New Jersey, John Earl of Stair *vs.* Benjamin Bond and others. (The Elizabethtown Bill in Chancery.) 1 vol.
From the Misses Rutherfurd.

MS. copy of the Journal of Capt. John Schuyler during an expedition to Canada, in August, 1690. (In Dutch, with a translation.)
From S. Alofsen, Esq.

MS. copies of Letters and Papers of Major General Alexander, (Lord Sterling) selected from the originals in the library of the New York Hist. Soc. (304 papers) bound, 1 vol. folio.
From James G. King, Esq.

Notes Historical and Biographical concerning Elizabethtown, by Nicholas Murray, D.D., 1 vol. 12mo. *From the Author.*

Reminiscences of Old Gloucester, or Incidents in the History of the Counties of Gloucester, Atlantic and Camden, New Jersey, by Isaac Mickle—2 copies. *From the Author.*

MS. of "Life of Rev. Wm. Tennent, Jr., by Dr. Thomas Henderson, of Freehold," (published by Dr. Boudinot.)
From Rev. Eli F. Cooley.

Presented in person by Col. Robert G. Johnson.

The Grants and Concessions of Lords Berkeley and Carteret to the inhabitants of New Jersey, February 1664–5. The original copy on parchment—a roll nearly nine feet long.

MEMBERS ELECTED

SEPTEMBER 4TH, 1845.

Bernard Conolly, *Freehold.*
Rev. Harry Finch, *Shrewsbury.*
James S. Green, *Princeton.*
Littleton Kirkpatrick, *New Brunswick.*
Rev. Alexander C. Millspaugh, *Freehold.*
George P. McCulloch, *Morristown.*
Abraham G. Nafie, *Freehold.*
James Neilson, *New Brunswick.*
Orrin Pharo, *Freehold.*
John Potter, *Princeton.*
Benjamin F. Randolph, *Freehold.*
Com. R. F. Stockton, U. S. N., *Princeton.*
John R. Thompson, *Princeton.*

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen, *New York.*
Rev. Obadiah M. Johnson, *New Hampton, Orange Co. N. Y.*
Thomas D. James, *Albany, N. Y.*
David B. Ogden, *New York.*
James Parker, Jr., *Somerset, Perry Co. Ohio.*
George Wood, *New York.*

HONORARY MEMBERS.

John R. Brodhead, *New York.*
Ferdinand W. Hubbell, *Philadelphia.*
Hon. James Kent, LL.D., *New York.*
Rev. Thos. Robbins, D.D., *Hartford, Conn.*
Prof. Jared Sparks, LL. D., *Cambridge, Mass.*

AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

IN PRINCETON,

SEPTEMBER 4, 1845,

BY SAMUEL MILLER, D.D.

AN ADDRESS.

Mr. President, and Gentlemen of the N. J. Historical Society:

We are associated and assembled for a noble purpose; a purpose not unworthy of our regard, whether as Christians, as Patriots, or as friends of liberal knowledge. History is the record of God's providence in the Church and in the world. Of course, God is in history. And if, as alleged by an English poet, as illustrious for the wisdom and piety of his sentiments as for the vigor of his imagination, it be true, that "an undevout astronomer is mad;"—it may, with equal truth, be said, that an undevout student of history is demented. He forgets its nature, its end, and its great and precious lessons; and is just as much to be pitied as he who can gaze on the beauties and glories of creation, without ever recognizing either the wisdom or the benevolence of their almighty Maker.

Of faithful history it is not easy to over rate the importance. It was quaintly said by one of the kings of *Aragon*—"Dead men are our best instructors." This is only saying, in other words, that a large proportion of the best practical lessons of life are drawn from history. With living men, and present measures, there is, ordinarily, connected so much passion and prejudice, that we are not so apt as we ought to be to receive instruction from them. But when men are dead, and the ardent feelings commonly connected with their lives, and actions, and parties have passed away, we are then prepared to learn from them the important lessons which their actions, and the consequences of those actions often so impressively inculcate. Indeed there are many characters as well events which, I suppose, are never truly and impartially understood but through the medium of history, and sometimes of remote history. It really appears as if it were necessary, in a multitude of cases, that the rays of truth should pass through the prism of time before they can be so separated and arranged as to

impress an appropriate and faithful image on the field of vision. The eloquent and philosophical *Cicero* did not over rate the value of faithful history, when he said—"Not to know what happened before you were born, is to be always a child." But by a much higher authority it is enjoined—*Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask thy fathers, and they will shew thee, thy elders, and they will tell thee.** And in accordance with this divine injunction, it is worthy of notice, that, of all the inspired Scriptures, considerably more than one half is in the historical form.

"History," as one strongly expresses it, "is the memory of the human race. Now let any man reflect, for a moment, what would be his situation if he remembered nothing. Let him extend this reflection to his family, to his neighbors, to his nation, to his species. The result is frightful beyond the power of imagination to paint." I had almost said, the bliss of heaven would cease to be bliss if memory were destroyed.

Hence that ardent and inextinguishable thirst for historical information which ever has prevailed and ever will prevail in enlightened and elevated minds. And hence, too, taking advantage of this thirst, so natural and so prevalent, the wonderful popularity of that immense mass and variety of *fictitious history*, which forms one of the distinguishing features of the last century; and which has now reached an extent and diffusion truly alarming to the enlightened, and especially to the Christian philanthropist. The great evil of fictitious history is, that it stimulates unnaturally; and, under the guise of entertainment, imparts illusion, intoxication, and finally, (as in the case of physical intoxication) debility and disease. The person who, at any age, and especially in the morning of life, when the bodily constitut on is forming, instead of daily taking a proper quantity of wholesome food, should undertake to live habitually on confectionary, spices and ardent spirits, would undoubtedly be considered as acting an infatuated part. By taking this course, many a precious youth, naturally sound, athletic and promising, has been converted into a feeble and miserable valetudinarian, and been brought to a premature grave. In like manner, it is no less certain that the influence of fictitious history on the minds of those who are inordinately devoted to it, is deeply pernicious. It would, perhaps, be difficult to assign any single cause which has contributed so much to produce that lightness and frivolity which so remarkably characterize the literary taste of the day in which we live, as the unexampled multiplication, and the astonishing

* Deuteronomy, xxxi., 7.

popularity of this class of writings. They discourage the acquisition of solid learning; they fill the mind with vain, unnatural and delusive ideas; they deprave the moral taste; they are often framed in such a manner as to be systematic, and sometimes ingenious apologists for error and crime. They often exhibit virtue, and especially piety, as contemptible; and vice as attractive, honorable and triumphant. The omnipotence of Love over all obligations and all duties, is often zealously maintained; and the extravagance of criminal passion represented as the effect of amiable sensibility. Surely there is no risk of error in saying, that the habitual reader of such fiction is in a fair way to enervate his own mind, and to banish from it all masculine thinking, all correct sentiment, and all solid knowledge. A century, or even three quarters of a century ago, when you met with a diligent reader, an insatiable devourer of books, you might generally calculate on finding some robustness of intellect, or, at any rate, a large and valuable mass of information. Then the great standard masters of English literature were, as a matter of course, valued, studied, and made the basis of sentiment and diction among all the sober and reflecting, who laid any claim to literary character. Now, we have far more readers, and more incessant, unwearied readers, with far less of intellectual aliment and strength. Now we can shew thousands of men and women, young and old, who exhaust all the circulating libraries within their reach; who are, perhaps, seldom or never seen, out of company, but with a book in their hands; who, at the same time, if they have ever heard of such authors as *Bacon*, and *Shakspeare*, and *Milton*, and *Addison*, and *Pope*, and *Goldsmith*, and *Young*, and *Thompson*, and *Johnson*, and *Cowper*, have, perhaps, never read a page of any of their writings; and who have never, it may be, drawn from all the millions of pages which they have poured over, one solitary shred of valuable information; one sober dictate of practical wisdom; one solid attainment fitted to prepare them either for living or for dying; to act their part well in this world, or to get ready to enjoy that which is to come.

Now whatever has a tendency to break the charm of this love of fiction, and to give a taste for substantial, practical realities, cannot fail of doing good as far as it operates. We have associated and are come hither to promote the study of real history; the history of our own country, especially of our own State; to recommend an object of attention which cannot fail to exert a salutary influence on all, young and old, who engage in it; and which, while it benefits ourselves, like every other laudable pursuit, reflects an important benefit on the

community, which it is equally our privilege and our duty to serve. Let me assure my hearers, and especially the younger part of them, that if they were to devote an hundred years to the exhaustless stores of fictitious history, and should become perfect masters of this large department of English literature, they would, at the end of this long period, have made no attainment adapted to make them either wiser or happier. But every acquisition made in the knowledge of genuine history, is, in all cases, so much laid up for promoting the duties and enjoyments of life.

The plan of promoting any particular branch of knowledge by forming a permanent Society for its culture, was early adopted. In the reign of Charlemagne, in the eighth century, when the cause of liberal knowledge had a small and temporary revival, we read of a Society of learned men who associated under the patronage of that celebrated monarch, for the purpose of aiding each other in the pursuit of literature and science. The Society, however, was small and feeble, and, as might have been expected, accomplished little. Scarcely any thing more seems to have been attempted until eight centuries afterward, when some societies of this kind began to be formed in Italy. The first effective impulse for forming such Associations upon any thing like a useful plan, seems to have been given by the publication of the *New Atalantis* of Lord Chancellor *Bacon*, early in the 17th century. Since that time they have been multiplied to an extent which it would be both tedious and useless to attempt to enumerate in detail.

In forming the "New Jersey Historical Society," our movement has been late and tardy, far in the rear of several of our sister States. But I congratulate you, my respected Associates, that the movement has been made, and that it has commenced with so much promise of vigor and success. True, indeed, it has been delayed too long for him who now addresses you, who, in the weakness of declining age, can scarcely hope to be able to co-operate with his fellow-members in any other way than by his good wishes and his prayers. This, however, is a matter of such extremely small importance, that it would never have occurred to him as a proper subject of reference, did it not afford an opportunity of expressing the earnest and delightful hope, that, when those who have nearly finished their course, shall withdraw from the field of toil, many a youthful laborer, of robust body and mind, and patriotic heart will arise to take their places, and do more and better than we, their predecessors, have ever done.

Instead of selecting any particular point in the history of our

State, written or unwritten, on which to dilate, I shall rather employ the hour allotted to this exercise, in offering some counsels, or rather suggestions, which, if acted upon, would tend greatly to the promotion of the cause which we are associated to prosecute. And

I. Allow me to suggest, that, in each county of the State, some enlightened and devoted student of the antiquities of New Jersey, be stirred up to undertake to write THE HISTORY OF HIS OWN COUNTY in as much minute detail as his materials will enable him.

The doctrine of the *division of labor* is one of the most established and important principles for augmenting the *quantity*, as well as improving the *quality* of human productions, both intellectual and mechanical. The amazing benefits which it has accomplished in the manufacturing world, are familiar to us all. May it not be also made to a considerable degree, available in the department of literature? Many a man may be willing and competent to tell the story of his Town or County, who would shrink from a larger and more complex undertaking. His very familiarity with every hill, and valley, and stream, and edifice, public and private, together with all the popular traditions concerning every thing—all familiar to his mind as household words, would undoubtedly give him advantages in his investigations which an inhabitant of another district could not possess. Further; in such an undertaking, every neighbor may be made a coadjutor in the enterprize; and even the garrulity of age may be turned to valuable account. Nothing more is necessary to the happy accomplishment of such a contribution to the historical wealth of the State, than that there be *one mind* in the district supposed, alive to the importance of the object; ever wakeful to seize and appropriate every particle of information within reach, and to press every body into an aid in the service. Such a mind may accomplish wonders whenever it undertakes in good earnest to labor.

I speak of the history of particular portions of the State in detail. It is, no doubt, familiar to the minds of those who have paid any attention to the history of the State in which we live, that several of the districts which compose it received a *stamp* at their first settlement, which conferred upon them a *peculiar character*, the effects of which remain, in some measure, to the present day. These ought to be recognized and carefully studied: and as no man is qualified to write the life of another, who has not succeeded in entering deeply into the proper estimate of his spirit, his talents, his governing principles, and his sphere of action; so none is prepared to write the history of *East Jersey*, who has not learned fully to understand, and

justly to appreciate the character of the first settlers, their origin, their opinions, and the motives and means of their settlement.* In like manner, the history of *West Jersey* forms an aspect of a very different character for the portrait painter. In fact, if we had a faithful unvarnished history of half a dozen of the earliest designated and most important Counties of the State, we should be amply furnished with the raw materials for a perfect history of New Jersey. One of the venerable Vice Presidents of our Society has performed a service of this kind, for which, as a Jerseyman, as well as a member of this Association, I feel much his debtor.† If some like-minded individual in every County in the State could be prevailed upon to take in hand the history of his own district, with as much minuteness and extent as his materials would allow, the general historian would be furnished with ample materials for going to work without delay.

II. Another important enterprize in aid of our historical cause, which I would earnestly recommend, is, that every pastor of a church in our State, of every denomination, should forthwith engage in the task of writing the history of his own congregation, and as soon as it can be carefully and advisedly prepared, committing it to the press.

The history of the several religious Societies in any State, is, virtually, the history of that State. As any people are in regard to the church of God, so they will commonly be found to be in regard to intelligence, to literature, to secular order and improvement, and to social happiness. Of course, he who faithfully elucidates the rise, progress and condition of ecclesiastical matters in any community, can never fail to pour a flood of light on the great interests of knowledge, civilization, wealth, prosperity, and social strength and enjoyment in that community. Whether he intend it or not, if he be skilful and faithful, he will have accomplished all this. If, therefore, it were in my power to stir up every pastor in the United States to write the history of his own congregation, and either print it, or send it, for safe keeping, to some appropriate depository, I should consider myself as rendering an essential service to the history of the United States, and as conferring a great benefit on our common country. And if I could, by this discourse, reach the ears and the hearts of all the ministers of religion in New Jersey, and prevail upon each one

* Since the delivery of this Address the first volume of the Society's Collections has been published, containing "East Jersey under the Proprietary Governments," by William A. Whitehead, and "The Model of the Government of East New Jersey," by George Scot of Pitlochie, originally printed in 1685.

† "*An Historical Account of the first settlement of Salem, in West Jersey, by* John Fenwick, *Esquire, Chief Proprietor of the same, by* R. G. Johnson.

to engage in the proposed enterprise with zeal, and without the loss of an hour, I should feel as if the task of this day had not been in vain.

I say, without the loss of an hour; for every passing hour jeopards, if it do not destroy some precious document, the loss of which may essentially obscure truth, if it do not indirectly minister to error. That raging element, which pays no respect either to the policy of insurance, or to the claims of literature; or the silent and less terrific corrosions of time, are, every day, placing beyond the reach of the lover of history materials which, however important, can never be recovered.

Here, then, in this peculiar and appropriate manner, every pastor in the State may help our Society, and, in so doing, may help himself, and, it may be, help the cause of religion, to an extent which he may not be able now to appreciate. Let every one, then, in the sacred office immediately commence the work. His inquiries will tend to wake up his own mind, as well as the minds of those parishioners and neighbors whom he may engage as auxiliaries in the collection of materials. If any ask me for a sample of what is to be desired on this subject—I answer—Let every pastor do for his own church what has been so well done for the First Church of Elizabeth-Town, and we shall have no more to wish in regard to that point.*

III. Let me go one step further, and entreat some competent person, who feels a sufficient interest in the subject, to form and publish a complete history of every College, every Academy, every High School, in short, every established Literary Institution, for either males or females, within the limits of New Jersey. We are, perhaps, so familiar with many of these Institutions respectively, that we feel as if we knew every thing about them that is important or interesting. But we forget that our children know less than ourselves; that even now a thousand questions concerning them may be asked, which we ourselves may be wholly unable to answer; and that, in a little while, if we continue to neglect the history of these Institutions, the number of these unanswerable questions will greatly increase. There are points even in the history of the College in the immediate vicinity of which we are assembled, though a hundred years have not fully elapsed since it was founded, which it were greatly to be wished that our venerable Fathers had recorded with more distinctness, and transmitted to us with more satisfactory precision.

Few understand the real importance of these historical records but those who have had occasion to explore the recesses of some obscure cavern of antiquity. In such an investigation, how precious is every

**Notes, Historical, and Biographical, concerning Elizabeth-Town, &c.* By Nicholas Murray, D.D. 1844. 12mo., pp. 166.

ray of light! how invaluable every ascertained date, or prominent fact, which either accident or design may have left on record! It were well if, in this respect, we could be induced to take counsel from the land of our Fathers. *There*, we know, that not only every county and every town, but every cathedral, almost every parish church, every college, every castle, every important school, and even every conspicuous ruin has been honored with its appropriate history, drawn up sometimes at great length, and with laborious accuracy, and often embellished with all the refined and splendid illustrations which the arts of painting and engraving can supply.

Happy would it be for the interests of liberal knowledge in our State, if every seminary of learning, every permanent public institution should find its appropriate and faithful historian, before its annals shall have passed beyond recovery. Let none say, of any public institution or place that it is too inconsiderable to employ the historian's pen.—When Romulus first established his little band of followers on the Palatine Hill, he probably never thought of recording the fact; nor did any of his posterity think of such a record for centuries afterward. But had they been able to look into futurity, how different would their estimate have been! How easy had it been to forestall all the doubt, speculation and controversy which, for more than twenty centuries have been wasted on the question concerning the foundation of the "Eternal City"!

There are few States in our Union the topical history of which is more closely interwoven with the story of our Revolutionary contest than that of New Jersey. The hills, the vallies, the towns, the public edifices, and even the otherwise obscure hamlets of a large part of our state, abound with memorials which bear a similar relation to the story of that great struggle by which the God of armies gave independence to our beloved country, that the shores of the Mediterranean do to the early history of the human race.

IV. There can be no doubt that the examination of our colonial Laws, and the early records of our colonial Courts, would furnish many facts deeply interesting to the students of the history of New Jersey.

We have heard often and much of the "Blue Laws" of Connecticut, and of the trial and "hanging of Witches" in Massachusetts. What disclosures a careful examination of our own early annals might make in these respects, I am not prepared to say; but I do say, that my early inquiries in another State, many years ago, satisfied me that some of the early colonial statutes of, at least *New York* and *Virginia*, were quite as intensely "blue" in some of their aspects as those of Connecticut, and that, with regard to trials and executions for

witchcraft, they were by no means confined to Massachusetts; to say nothing of the still more numerous and quite as tragic scenes connected with that alleged crime which took place in Old England, about the same time, as well as a little before, and in which so great and good a man as Lord Chief Justice Hale officially participated. The truth is, the more we become acquainted with the history of our own State, the less we shall be disposed to indulge either wonder or censure at the early history of our sister States. If this suggestion be worthy of regard, then every Attorney and Counsellor at Law in our State may help us essentially, if he be only imbued with the spirit of a zealous and vigilant antiquary. A spirit, by the way, the indulgence of which may prepare him, not only to be an efficient auxiliary in our Association, but also to be a more enlightened and a more able professional advocate as long as he lives. Let me now descend

V. Another step lower in detail, and advise every individual, and especially every young man who wishes and aims to be something among his fellow-men, to keep up, by a *faithful diary*, the *passing history of his own life*.

The keeping a *diary*, and, indeed, the whole business of *autobiography* in every form, may, by levity or vanity, be made superlatively ridiculous; or, by wisdom and fidelity be made to answer a most important purpose in forming the character, and regulating the life. The benefit which such a diary affords in after life, to him who keeps it, in the facts which it records; the dates which it fixes; and the numberless items of information which it secures for review, can be fully understood only by one who has made the experiment. And, what is worthy of notice, the more eminent and important the individual afterward becomes, the more precious to himself is such a record of his early life; and, of course, the more precious to those who survive him. In the course of a long life, I have known such diaries to settle many important historical questions; to terminate perplexing controversies; to prevent law suits; and to convey and perpetuate an amount of information which may be of inestimable value to individuals, to families, and, in some cases, to the whole community.

Nor is this all: the very keeping of such a diary is adapted to exert a salutary influence on the mind of him who keeps it. He who daily calls himself to an account for the manner in which he spends the day; who makes a careful record of all its employments; and who is constrained, for this purpose, often to "consider his ways," to deal much in self-inspection, and self-examination, and to ponder on what he has done, and is still called to do—cannot fail of being profited by such a task. If nobody else should ever derive benefit from his diary, he will,

assuredly, be himself a gainer by it. He who faithfully keeps such a "day book" of his life, cannot be a frivolous or disorderly person. In spite, I had almost said, of himself, he must lead a life, in some measure, systematic and regular. I do not assert that the experience of others has been in no case different; but I have never personally known any one who faithfully and constantly kept a daily record of his life, who was not a sober liver, an honored citizen, and a public benefactor.—We are told, indeed, that Lord *Byron*, with all his eccentricity and profligacy, constantly kept a diary. But the moral as well as the intellectual anomalies of that man's character were so enormous, nay so perfectfully monstrous, that the usual estimates of human nature are found utterly at fault when his career comes into view.

I speak in the presence of a large body of young men, enjoying the advantages of the best mental culture. I will indulge the hope that a large portion of them are governed by a spirit of elevated emulation, who "seek," as Lord Chancellor Bacon expresses it, "to be eminent among able men." This, Bacon pronounces to be "a great task; a task which cannot be rightly pursued, without, in itself, conferring a public benefit." To every young man fired with any measure of this noble ambition, I would say, Commence from this hour to keep a faithful record of your daily employments. You cannot anticipate the amount of its utility, and the higher you may rise hereafter in honor and usefulness, the more precious will this record be found.—With regard to *others*, in such a body of young men, (I hope it is a small proportion of their number)—who, as the same illustrious writer expresses it,—aim at nothing but to be "a figure among cyphers."—What are they but a blot on all honorable reputation,—an incubus on their country's honor?

You will not, of course, consider me as advising EVERY young man, without discrimination, to record his daily doings. By no means. For the mere *fruges consumere nati*—who love neither knowledge, nor any thing else that is good—for *them* to attempt to keep an honest journal of their lives, would be a mockery of good sense, not worth the ink and paper employed in its construction, and, if faithful, capable only of recording their own shame.

Fancy to yourselves for a moment, a specimen of the contents of a diary kept by *such* a student. Think of the following as a quotation from it. "Had a little conflict to-day with the College authority. Was frowned upon and reproved by the President for using disrespectful language and conduct in the class. Mem. I must take the first opportunity to insult the President, and to shew him that I consider such conduct on his part as not to be borne by a young man of

spirit." Or again, suppose we imagine such an entry as this—"Have been for sometime more and more displeased with the College, and my connection with it. The Faculty are so tenacious in insisting on diligent study and good order,—for neither of which I have any taste, that I could not any longer endure it. Besides, those vulgar fellows called *creditors*, have been, for a number of weeks past, so incessantly following me with their duns—conduct which has always appeared to me a thing of exceedingly bad taste,—that I have had no peace of mind for weeks. I, therefore, took 'French leave' of the Institution this morning, before day light, and happily escaped Faculty, Creditors and all; and now feel myself an honorable freeman." I ask again, can we imagine a diary, kept by a student in this or any other College, to furnish such an extract as that which you have heard? Never! Never! Why? Because no one who really kept such a record, ever did such things.

Do you wonder, then, my respected Associates, that I earnestly recommend to every man who has a spark of noble emulation burning in his bosom, and especially to every young man pursuing a liberal education, with a view to rising in the world, to keep a daily faithful record of his employments, his attainments, and his plans and habits of living. I should be at a loss to mention any thing, short of real Religion, more likely to fix the attention; to generate habits of industry and order; to inspire a sense of responsibility; and thus to prepare for acting a useful part on the great theatre of life.

From all that has been said, I trust it will appear, that it is in the power of every class, and of all ages of our fellow citizens to help us in the great cause for which we are banded together. Not only those who occupy public stations, and who are accustomed to act for the community as well as for themselves; not only the aged, many of whom are laden with the treasures of tradition; but every farmer, every merchant, every mechanic, every minister of the gospel, every teacher of youth, nay, every youth himself who desires to cherish a taste for liberal knowledge, and for elevated action, may yield solid aid in the cause in which we are engaged; and, in so doing, they will never fail to help themselves. But it is to be deplored that, although the field is so widely extended, so endlessly diversified, and so plainly open for laborers, so few are disposed to enter it, and partake in gathering the harvest, "*Manus desunt poscentibus arvis.*" Ours will be the task to inform all around us *how* they may help, and to *excite* them to labor. Cannot the Executive Committee, as one means of giving impulse to our machinery, engage, in each County in the State, an enlightened, public spirited individual, who would take pleasure in becoming a

centre of influence, and of deposite for our Society, who, as he moved about among his neighbors, would delight in giving to every one with whom he met, an impulse, a lesson, and a task; and who would take care to return from every excursion, whether of business or of pleasure, laden with some memorials of the olden time.

To these suggestions I beg permission to add some remarks on two points which appear to me to be worthy of notice, and of no little practical importance, in entering on our labors as a Historical Society.

I. The first is, that we *guard with sacred care against suffering our Institution to be pressed into the service of party politics.* The spirit of conflict between political parties is one of the most reckless, blinding, unrelenting, all-grasping, and all-devouring spirits that ever agitated the human mind. There is nothing too sacred to be perverted by this spirit, and made subservient to its most nefarious projects. Now if there be any human association which ought, with scrupulous care, to hold itself aloof from the influence of this spirit, it is that which is here assembled. Professing to be associated for the purpose of collecting and recording FACTS—SIMPLE FACTS—whatever may be their import, and on whomsoever they may bear—how incongruous, nay, how dishonest, for such an Association to lend itself to the prejudices, the sinister purposes, and the violence of political partizans, whose very element it is to make truth subservient to the honor of favorite names, and to the schemes of lawless ambition!

The spirit of the *Crusades*, which pervaded and convulsed Europe, in the eleventh and following centuries, and which drained Western Christendom of so many millions of her population and her treasures, was a tremendous spirit. It was blind, fierce, and utterly fanatical; but it was *honest.* I speak now of the *earlier stages* of that great and wide-spread Mania. It was *honest,* that is, the great mass of the leaders and the led really meant what they said. I wish it were possible, with truth, to say the same of the genuine spirit of political party, especially in its more concentrated and malignant forms. In its warfare against truth—simple, pure truth—it is really an awful spirit. Now the discovery and establishment of simple, unadulterated truth is the great object of our association. With *us* every fact and every character should be examined and recorded with the rigid conscientiousness of MEN ON OATH. Be not over confident, my respected Associates, that you will never be importuned to depart from this principle: but I would deliberately say, rather DISBAND, than yield to an influence so utterly subversive of the very first principles of your organization.

II. The second caution to which I beg leave to call your attention, is, that, in reading modern historians, in the English language, especially those prepared for popular use, in our own country, it is important to be on our guard against the mistakes and the confusion arising from the want of distinction between the *old and new style in Chronology.*

It is well known that *Julius Cæsar*, a few years before the incarnation of Christ, finding the Roman Calendar in a state of deplorable disorder, assembled a number of learned men at Rome, who, after long and careful deliberation on the subject, applied a correction which was deemed sufficiently accurate to assume a systematic character. They made the year to consist of 365 days and 6 hours. This is between 11 and 12 minutes more than the true solar year; so that, under the operation of this system, in 130 years, a full day accumulated above the accurate estimate. The consequence was, that, in the latter part of the sixteenth century, it was found that the Calendar had gotten wrong by the accumulation of 10 days. To rectify this disorder, the Roman Pontiff adopted similar means to those to which Julius Cæsar had resorted sixteen centuries before. He collected a number of learned men in his Capital, and, by their counsel, framed a plan for disposing of the supernumerary days which had already accumulated, and to prevent, by a judicious interposition of leap years, any such accumulation in future.* The Calendar, thus corrected, was called the *new style*, and is that system of Chronology by which we are now governed. This new mode of reckoning commenced in Rome, as is generally known, in 1582. It went into operation in some of the Roman Catholic States immediately, and in all of them without the loss of much time. The Protestant States were slow in receiving it; nor were they simultaneous in adopting it. Great Britain did not recognize it as regulating her Calendar until 1752; that is, *one hundred and seventy years* after its original construction. This, of course, led to a very serious discrepance, during the greater part of two centuries, between the system of dating on the part of British and American writers, and those who were subject to the Roman Catholic States of Europe. It will scarcely be believed, unless by one whose attention has been particularly drawn to the

* It must not be supposed that the Reformation of the Calender in the time of Pope Gregory, assumed and adopted the *precise* arrangement which obtained in the time of Julius Cæsar. The truth is, that, while the general principles of the Cæsarian plan of correction were adopted, it was determined, for ecclesiastical reasons, that the Equinox should be restored to the same day of the month of March on which it fell at the *Council of Nice.* Had the correction in 1582 been made with strict reference to the former system, the supernumerary days thrown away must have amounted to at least *twelve*, instead of *ten*, as the slightest computation will demonstrate.

subject, what a wonderful amount of *anachronism* in the pages of some of our most popular, and indeed excellent historical writers, has grown out of this diversity of chronological reckoning. Sometimes in the same extended narrative; on the same page; nay, within half a dozen lines of each other, we find them, in some dates of the same story, following the French, Spanish and Portuguese writers, all of whom adopted the new style, subsequently to 1582; and, in other dates, following the British authorities, who, up to 1752, were always governed by the old style; or the dates of the Protestants of Germany, Denmark, &c., who adopted the *new style* at different periods. And, in some cases, these are so strangely mixed up together, as very seriously to mislead all but the most careful readers, and, indeed, even these readers have rarely at hand the means of preventing their being misled, and of conducting them to accurate results. This difference of reckoning is never less than ten or eleven days, which, in many cases of controverted chronology, may be highly important. But in some cases, for reasons which I will not now stop to explain, it may import a difference of more than a year, which may lead to error not a little mischievous, as well as perplexing. It ought to be borne in mind that these discrepances in *dates* have crept into the works of some of our best historians. They are to be found in the work of the faithful and laborious *Smith*, the respected historian of our own State. They are to be found in some of the best manuals prepared for our Academies and Schools: and, indeed, it is no easy matter either to detect or avoid them, without a degree both of skill and vigilance in Chronology which is seldom possessed.

Such, my respected Associates, is the great field in which we are called to labor, and in which it will be our policy, as well as our duty to engage as many co-workers as we can find or make. But while we strive to engage the co-operation of as many as possible, let each one labor as if all depended on himself. In every efficient and useful Association with which it has been my privilege to be connected, in the course of a long life, the mass of the work has been done by a few men, who had both a taste and a zeal for labor. Let each of us aim to be *such* a member of this body—ever at work—ever stimulating others to work,—but resolving that whatever else may fail, the work, by Divine help, shall not cease, but go on. One of the most honorable characteristics of a genuine Patriot, and especially of a Christian Patriot, is, that he is a WORKING MAN—ever planning and laboring for the enlargement of the field of knowledge, and ever willing to exert himself and make sacrifices for promoting the improvement and happiness of his fellow men.